

THE GATEWAY

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SPELL-CAST The Bears (10-0) neutralized the Saskatchewan Huskies in their two-match weekend tussle, taking both victories, while building on their CIS lead.

U of C tries to cut \$50M from budget

CHRIS BOUTET
Associate News Editor

The University of Calgary will be trying to cut its annual spending by \$50 million dollars over the next four years.

The cuts come largely as a result of increasing salaries, skyrocketing enrolment, resource costs, and a decrease in provincial funding. Although the details have not yet been thoroughly hammered out, U of C's acting Director of Communications Andrew Wark stated that the administration is doing their best to maintain quality of education in the face of the deficit.

CASA fires back at criticism

ADAM GRACHNIK
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — "Are we in a crisis?" asks the national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). "No. No way. Not even close."

Liam Arbuckle is reacting to the shocking decision made by the Students' Association of Grant MacEwan College (GMC) to leave CASA, as well as the University of Alberta Students' Union's serious contemplation of a similar choice.

"We're sad that someone chooses to have no representation," said Arbuckle, whose organization, before the departure, represented 310 000 post-secondary students in 23 schools. "They [GMC] now have no voice at the table."

Arbuckle claims the two Edmonton-based schools are focusing on little things. "We're [CASA] focusing on the big picture. These leaders focus on smaller minutia issues."

The feud boiling within CASA comes mainly out of the group's October lobby conference in Ottawa. At the annual conference, member delegates met with over 90 MPs and other influential persons over six days and lobbied them about issues pertaining to post-secondary education.

Arbuckle called the conference "fantastic," and in an earlier press release said, "Paul Martin agreed with CASA policy opposing possible inclusion of education in the Free Trade Area of the Americas. ... Mr Martin also suggested that a complete overhaul of the [Canada Student Loan Program] is needed."

PLEASE SEE CASA • PAGE 2

SU asks faculties to cancel classes for protest march

Faculties turn down request to drop class on 17 January for student march at Legislature

COSANNA PRESTON
News Writer

An SU request to cancel classes for three hours on 17 January was narrowly defeated at the General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting Monday afternoon, following an extremely long debate.

Mat Brechtel, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), brought forward the motion to the GFC, asking that all faculties suspend lecture sessions from 11am to 2pm on Friday, 17 January to allow U of A students to march to the legislature and call for more provincial funding. The date coincided with the

Board of Governors meeting in which the proposed 6.4 per cent tuition hike would be up for approval.

The GFC, the legislative body at the U of A that deals with academic matters and student affairs issues, voted the proposal down with 40 in favour, 55 opposed.

"I guess part of me truly believed that the [financial] situation the University is in now would encourage some people in the GFC to act."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Students and staff from all faculties and key administrators are members

of GFC.

Brechtel knew that the SU was fighting an uphill battle with this request, but hoped the outcome was going to be different.

"I am disappointed," said Brechtel after the meeting. "I knew it would be controversial, but I guess part of me truly believed that the [financial] situation the University is in now would encourage some people in the GFC to act."

The key concerns of the GFC were the effectiveness of protest on the government in Alberta and providing choice for those who wanted to attend class.

"Protest doesn't work," said Alex Abboud, an undergraduate arts student member of the GFC. "The reasons why the premier went and protested for the Wheat Board was because that is his core constituency: those are the constituents who keep sending him back to office."

PLEASE SEE PROTEST • PAGE 3



MAT BRECHTEL

LESS CLASS, MORE ACTION SU Vice-President (Academic) Mat Brechtel (right) asks to cancel class for a protest march.

PLEASE SEE UOFC • PAGE 2



9 What do you do when the home team wins? A group of fans went crazy when the hometown Buckeyes football team knocked off the Wolverines 14-9, and threw a celebratory riot.

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Outside

Tuesday: Increasing cloudiness.
Wednesday: Sunny, high 10, low 5.
Thursday: Sunny, high 10, low 5.
Friday: A mix of sun and cloud, high 10, low 5.
Saturday: Sunny, high 10, low 5.
Sunday: Sunny, high 10, low 5.
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Students hoping for free drinks on the last day of class were disappointed when the Students' Union cancelled their traditional eggnog party. According to SU VP (External) Marc Dumouchel, Students' Council cancelled the party to save the \$5000-\$6000 the event cost. In lieu of the party, the SU planned a far more awesome "wandering Christmas party," complete with Santa Claus, candy canes and carols, that would traverse the campus spreading Christmas cheer.

1990

Correction

The sports dept would like to apologize for an error in an article dated 21 November. One "Colin Irvine" should have read "Colin Stephenson". Full correction on page 8.



13 There are CDs that get reviewed here at the Gateway. And because it's the end of time, it's time to publish them all. Check out A&E to find out what sucks.

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colophon

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while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images.
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Koyne, Tyson Daulton, Shaun Hamill, Katie "Bojarski"
Kowalski, Tessa Lovell, Katie Rossiter, and the rest of my
lipstick still remains on the runway from Sublim8.

Clothing drive wants your pants

CATLIN CROWSHAW
News Writer

Delta Chi wants your pants—for the
wholesome intention of supplying
the Bissell Centre, an inner-city sup-
port service, with extra clothing this
winter.

The "We Want Your Pants Clothing
Drive" is an annual event held by the
Delta Chi fraternity, and Delta Chi
associate member and clothing drive
organizer Chris Sandstra says pants and
all clothing items are in hot demand.

This year, however, the Kappa Alpha
Theta women's fraternity is also "pig-
gybacking" with their event, "We
Want Your Toys."

Both fraternities are coming together
for the week of 25–29 November to
raise money for struggling individuals

and families in Edmonton.

"They're real people, and a lot of
them are victims of a cruel system,"
said Sandstra, a psychology student
and volunteer at the George Spady
Centre.

**"They're real people,
and a lot of them are
victims of a cruel
system."**

CHRIS SANDSTRA,
DELTA CHI FRATERNITY

"Being a student, I don't have a lot
of money, but I give my time, so I can
give in that way."

Both toys and clothes are desperately
needed, said Sandstra, whose experi-

ences as a volunteer in the inner city
have shown him just how difficult it
can be to make ends meet.

He described how when many fam-
ilies finally get off the street, they have
little money for things like clothing
and toys for children.

"Some of these people have noth-
ing," said Sandstra.

Philanthropic events such as these
are also an important part of frater-
nity life, says Sandstra. He expressed
frustration at the way people tend to
see fraternities as concerned only with
partying, and not with academics or
friendship.

But Sandstra thinks that events such
as the clothing drive are concrete proof
of the real nature of frat life.

"It shows the skeptic what frat life is
really," he said.

Cancelled classes would make for more effective government protest, says SU

Faculties worried about students missing classes, effectiveness of protest

PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't see any proof that the
University population [or] the
University campus provides him with
that kind of support," said Abboud.

Brechtel acknowledged the march
may not affect the government directly,
but said it would raise awareness
among Albertans and encourage them
to tell their MLAs that funding from
the Alberta government for the U of A
is desperately needed.

"Right now the media is predomi-
nantly saying that universities are bus-
ing at the seams," said Brechtel.

"What we need to say is that yes,
universities are busting at the seams
because a university degree or some
form of post-secondary education is
necessary to get a job nowadays—but
that doesn't mean the current levels of
tuition are appropriate."

Brechtel worried the accessibility of
the University is constantly declining,
and while the U of A currently enjoys a
very high population, this is at risk of
falling as more and more Albertans
are unable to afford the price of a post-
secondary education.

The right to choose was the other
criticism brought up again and again.
Duane Szafran, an elected computing
science staff member of the GFC, was
in support of the spirit of the motion

but worried about denying the right of
students to attend class.

He suggested that students be
allowed to attend the march with no
penalties but that class would still be
held so that every student was pro-
vided with choice. This was put for-
ward as an amendment in the meeting
but it also failed by a narrow margin.

**"Yes, universities are
busting at the seams
because a university
degree or some form of
post-secondary educa-
tion is necessary to get
a job nowadays—but
that doesn't mean the
current levels of tuition
are appropriate."**

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Brechtel said he appreciated the
amendment but was concerned that
if passed, it would cause students
who were passionate about both edu-
cation and tuition to sacrifice one

event in order to participate in the
other. Brechtel argued the choice could
be avoidable if classes were cancelled
completely.

He also pointed out that forcing
students to make a choice would ul-
timately result in a less successful
march.

"I worry that it's going to be seen as
the vocal minority not speaking on
behalf of the majority," said Brechtel.
"There is a huge difference. I believe
that the people of Alberta seeing a hun-
dred people at the Legislature won't
take the message seriously, whereas
they'd see 6000, or possibly more,
they would have taken the message
seriously."

Brechtel says that Anand Sharma,
the Students' Union Vice-President
(External), will be responsible for
drawing up future plans but hoped to
see a continual message to the public
including events such as press releases
and lobbying the government, and a
widening of their support base in the
student body.

SU President Mike Hudema encour-
aged people to visit the SU website
regarding the issue. The website,
www.freeethedees.ca, includes an
action plan of what the SU hopes to
accomplish and also mentions ways to
become actively involved.

STREETERS

On Monday, the Students' Union asked the General Faculties Council
to cancel classes for three hours on 17 January, so students could
protest provincial underfunding in a march at the Legislature
Would you go on a march to protest provincial underfunding?



Paul D.
Education II



Kyle Fotty
Mathematical
Sciences II



Michael
Powaschuk
Petroleum
Engineering III



Lindsay Seymour
Arts I

Yeah, I think I would go on a protest
like that. Something like that is the only
thing that would open up the eyes of the
government. Our Students' Union alone
is not enough to push everybody but
if they see the whole student body is
really interested in something like this,
it'll probably turn out to be a positive
thing. I just keep thinking that tuition
hikes are inevitable; and it doesn't have
to be.

I honestly don't think the government
will listen either way. They tend not to
listen to students at all. I wasn't that bother-
ed by the tuition increase, because I
figured in the end I'd be able to pay it off.
The increase affects me a little bit, but
not that much.

We might as well. That way if we get
out there, they might say "OK, we've got
a problem, there's a lot of people
concerned about this. Maybe we should
change things a bit." I expected we'd
have another tuition hike, considering
we've had one ever since I first started
here. But this year my tuition is already
\$200 in petroleum engineering, and
going up another 6.4 per cent—it's a lot
of money.

I'd go on the march. There's such high
demand from careers or jobs these
days: how are people supposed to get
their education or training if nobody
can afford to go? If they're trying to
bring people to this university, why
would they hike up the tuition? I'm
from Saskatchewan, and these increases
might mean going back to Saskatchewan
just because of lower tuition.

Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Pabillon and Leah Collins

Björk melds nature and technology, says expert

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

Possibly the only academic expert on Björk in the world, York University PhD student Charity Marsh gave an insightful talk Monday night at the U of A on the Icelandic musician and the societal implications of her music.

"Björk uses her music, videos, performance art, media appearances, and the art on the cover of her albums to fuse nature and technology," Marsh explained. "This dichotomy tends to be perpetuated in the realm of popular music, and Björk manages to dispel it."

"Defining nature and technology often proves to be difficult because their meanings are in a constant state of flux," Marsh said. She went on to explain how technological innovations, such as eyeglasses, can be incorporated into the human form and become an integral part of the human body.

According to Marsh, Björk's music and the seeming contradictions inherent in it "compel us to rethink what a stable identity is."

After showing the music video for the song "Joga" from Björk's recent album *Homogenic*, Marsh further elaborated the premise of her talk.

The video combines shots of Iceland's natural landscapes with computer-generated images of the same landscapes. It also shows Björk with a hole in her chest where her heart would be, revealing more natural representations of the Icelandic landscape.

The fusion of nature, often viewed as feminine, and technology, usually seen as masculine, is an inherent contradiction in Björk's music and videos,



Charity Marsh, York University PhD student

and is an indirect protest against society's tendency to see the two as unrelated in any way, according to Marsh.

Marsh went on to discuss the same fusions between masculine and feminine as seen in Björk's media appearances. Inside the cover of the December 1997 issue of *Spin*, Björk is photographed as a pregnant woman with horns.

"She has the horns of a ram on her head, further blurring the dichotomy between male and female," said Marsh. "Uniting the female-male binary, she is looking at the audience with her head bent, cradling her stomach and protecting her child, but with an angry look of warning on her face."

Marsh went on to explain the combination of traditional forms of Scandinavian music and oral story telling with techno beats in the song

"Hunter" from *Homogenic*.

"Björk incorporates the ideas of the folktale and nineteenth century-style prose and poetry in this song," said Marsh. "At the same time, a beat is repeated continually throughout the piece and electronic melody flows throughout until the listener begins to perceive this as a natural sound."

Marsh says Björk has discovered "a new place for an old tradition" in her music, while blurring the boundaries between many traditional opposites in society.

"The immersion of natural elements in electronic music is an opportunity to deconstruct the dichotomy between technology and nature that occurs so often in popular music," she said. "In order to blur boundaries, it is imperative to be able to move freely around the contradictions."

Nova Scotia NDP proposes tuition freeze for province's universities

JENNIFER HENDERSON
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

HALIFAX (CUP) — If one of Nova Scotia's opposition parties has its way, tuition hikes at the province's universities may be a thing of the past.

Nova Scotia's New Democratic Party (NDP) has introduced a private members bill that would legislate a tuition freeze for the province's universities. Party leader Darrell Dexter says concern over the growing inaccessibility of post-secondary education motivated the proposed bill.

"Tuition is too high. It's that simple," said Dexter. "If you come from a working-class family in Nova Scotia, you'd be hard pressed to go to university these days."

According to Dexter, capping tuition and providing increased operating grants to universities is the best way to level the playing field for students of all backgrounds. He believes the necessary money to maintain educational quality should come from the government rather than students' pockets.

"A tuition freeze is an agreement by the government to fund the inflationary cost of running a university. You can't just order universities not to put tuition up. You have to be prepared to fund the inflationary costs. This is not just a tuition freeze, it's a fully funded tuition freeze," he said.

The NDP's plan is meeting guarded enthusiasm from student lobby groups within the province. Chris Mazerol, chair of the Nova Scotia Student Advocacy Coalition, says his association of student unions is behind the freeze idea but he doubts if it will

make it onto the books.

"If it is fiscally possible for the government for the government to support a tuition freeze, we feel they should. Unfortunately, we don't expect it to receive the attention it deserves," he said.

"This is a government that displays an anti-intellectual bias. This government is the only one in Canada without a loan remission program. Yet we have the highest debt load, the highest tuition."

**DARRELL DEXTER,
NOVA SCOTIA NDP LEADER**

According to Adele Poirier, a spokesperson for Nova Scotia's Department of Education, the province doesn't have the cash to bankroll a fully funded tuition freeze. She says to find an average eight per cent increase in universities operating budgets would require \$13 million from government coffers under the NDP plan.

"That's not the money we have right now," she said.

Regardless of the costs, Poirier isn't convinced that a tuition freeze is in the best interests of the province.

"We've seen in other areas where they've had a tuition freeze and it's backfired. BC is a good example. They had a tuition freeze there and they've

since lifted it as universities found they couldn't offer the level of services they needed to," she said.

Dexter isn't optimistic that his party's bill will be debated on the floor of the legislature, but he hopes it will help create a public dialogue on university funding within Nova Scotia. He sees the government's unwillingness to consider the merits of low tuition as an example of the low priority the province places on post-secondary education.

"I have to say, this is a government that displays an anti-intellectual bias. This government is the only one in Canada without a loan remission program. Yet we have the highest debt load, the highest tuition," he said.

Poirier admits that the province's track record on post-secondary education has been less than stellar but she points to an investment of \$25 million in university funding since 1998 as proof of the current Conservative government's commitment to education.

She says that Nova Scotia university students can also look forward to a debt reduction in the near future.

"It was promised in the spring budget to develop a program within 12 months and that's something we're working on," she said.

For his part, Mazerol echoes the skepticism of the NDP when evaluating the government's current focus on loan remission options.

"We're thinking it could be tied to the election. We haven't seen anything to indicate [Premier John Hamm's] government has placed any importance on post-secondary education."

Do YOU LIKE ANIMALS?

Yeah, neither do we. The truth is, we're just too damned busy here in the News Department to think about animals right now. But we would have time to care if you were here lending a hand.

Drop by the office or come to our News meetings, Tuesday at 4pm to find out how you can get into our surreal, action-packed world of filing things, making phone calls, checking facts and writing stories.

Besides, we heard that if you don't come write news, this unicorn and this anteater are going to totally tear each other apart. And no one wants that.

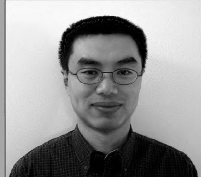


GATEWAY NEWS
Making animals fight since 1910



THE BRIDGE

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From atheism to faith in Christ
Hear Haitao Zhang's story at The Bridge.

Sunday, December 1 at 7:30 pm.

Haitao is an engineer for an Edmonton firm. He received his degree from the University of Alberta in 2000.



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Canada sending tonnes of electronic waste to Asia, says report

ANNA KING
The Ubyssy

VANCOUVER (CUP) — An American environmental group recently released a report claiming Canada is exporting tens of thousands of tonnes of toxic electronic waste to Asia, in violation of an international treaty.

Released 22 October, the Basel Action Network's (BAN) report said the Canadian government is ignoring the Basel Convention, which prohibits the movement of hazardous waste from rich to poor nations, and which was signed by Canada in 1989.

Electronic waste, known as E-waste, includes computer hard drives and monitors, TVs, phones, circuit boards and fax machines. E-waste is frequently shipped abroad by local exporters and the components are taken apart to be recycled. BAN alleges they are also burned or dumped in landfills or rivers.

Toxins including lead, mercury, polyvinyl chloride and others that can escape from E-waste have been shown to be damaging to human health and the environment.

The BAN report estimates 20 000 tonnes of E-waste will be exported from Canada to Asia in 2002.

Suzanne Leppinen, head of the export-import section of the Transboundary Movement Branch with Environment Canada, says the material BAN is referring to is not hazardous waste, according to Canadian standards.

"If it was shredded and could leach heavy metals, it would be considered hazardous waste. ... It's a whole intact

computer, it's not considered hazardous waste," Leppinen said.

The BAN report, however, says that according to the Basel Convention, materials that contain and have the potential to leach heavy metals—even before being exported—should be considered hazardous waste. "[Otherwise], well-packaged, pure PCBs, asbestos or pure dioxin would fail to qualify as hazardous waste," the report states.

"If it's a whole intact computer, it's not considered hazardous waste."

SUZANNE LEPPINEN, HEAD,
EXPORT-IMPORT SECTION,
TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT
BRANCH, ENVIRONMENT CANADA

The report also points to specific sections of the Convention that state glass waste from cathode-ray tubes (a component of computer monitors) is presumed to be hazardous waste.

BAN Toxics Policy Analyst Richard Gutierrez further points out that, under the Basel Convention, countries are prevented from exporting material that receiving countries classify as hazardous.

China, one of the major receivers of Canadian E-waste, made public statements in April 2000 banning the import of hazardous E-waste. Gutierrez says China has also notified the Basel Secretariat of the ban.

Environment Canada, on the other

hand, denies knowledge of a ban. "We have not officially been notified of a ban by China," said Leppinen. "We have followed up with the competent authority in China to get that information but we haven't been officially notified of a specific ban."

The Chinese consulate could not be reached by press time to comment on the existence of a ban.

Meanwhile, a Vancouver electronics recycling company that has exported E-waste to China for years says the facts BAN is using are out-of-date. Jim Donaldson, director of marketing at Electronics-Recycling.com said China has been addressing the environmental and health problems associated with E-waste for the past five years by upgrading its recycling facilities.

Donaldson said potentially by the new year, China will have recycling facilities with some of the highest standards in the world. "All the concerns will be met. [China] has rectified their standards [to be] higher than the US Environmental Protection Agency's and Canada's standards," he said.

Gutierrez is skeptical. "It's easy to upgrade standards, but it's another thing to upgrade all the facilities and working conditions, and to enforce these standards."

So, what's to be done with used electronic equipment? Gutierrez said, if possible, companies should hold on to it for now, unless the manufacturer will recycle it, as is true for some Sony and Hewlett-Packard components. Soon, BAN plans to design a "pledge of true stewardship" that recycling companies can adopt to show they don't ship waste overseas.

CASA says it can change

CASA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"CASA also met with Industry Minister Allan Rock on Friday where Minister Rock's announcement of supporting targeted funding in the [Canada Health and Social Transfer] caught many by surprise."

"Who do you think lit the fire? Any movement [in post-secondary education] that appears in government shows our effectiveness of lobbying"

LIAM ARBUCKLE,
CASA NATIONAL DIRECTOR

However, according to Anand Sharma, Vice-President (External) of the University of Alberta Students' Union, this conference only acted to prove that "CASA is weak and has severe flaws."

"CASA can't outline tangible results," he added. "Many of the lobby areas [that CASA fights for] the Liberal government is already moving on," he said, pointing towards the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) as an example. "They're not talking about issues that are at all contentious. ... They have access to politicians, but they're not challenging them."

Arbuckle dismisses those claims as "absurd."

"Who do you think lit the fire?" he retorts. "Any movement [in post-secondary education] that appears in government shows our effectiveness of lobbying."

"Paul Martin now wants to look at the loan program. We've been saying that for years," he said. "Why do you think they are talking about it?"

According to Arbuckle, the results of the conference quell his critics' claims that CASA is ineffective.

"If we're disorganized and inefficient, why would they [MPs] come and listen to us?" he asked. "We're considered big hitters; we have gotten movement over time."

Arbuckle did acknowledge that CASA might have some flaws, but said the organization is willing to transform.

"We are open to change. [But] it has to go through the right channels. It can't just be because you say so."

Sharma urged CASA to take a stance on the problem of including education in free-trade agreements, which Arbuckle said shows CASA's willingness to change and evolve.

"We have never said anything about FTAA and trade. We've never done that before. We have now drafted policy on FTAA, tuition and deregulation," he explained.

CASA, a national organization, didn't have policies on tuition fees until recently, because they were deemed to be a provincial matter. They now have draft policies on a number of issues.

"Nobody would say we're perfect, we can improve," said Arbuckle.

"Every organization goes through growth and decline. There are others interested in joining," he said, pointing towards Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Queen's University who were at the recent conference as observers.

The University of Alberta Students' Union Executive Committee has voted unanimously to withdraw from CASA. The motion will be brought to their Students' Council on 3 December.

To become a doctor,
Emma's university
education will cost at
least \$111,817, on top
of her living expenses.*



Emma might find the cure for blindness,

but she needs to be given the chance.

Post-secondary education is facing a crisis in Alberta. In just over a decade, tuition rates have risen over 200%. If this alarming trend continues, a post-secondary education will become an impossible dream for many young Albertans.

If the Klein government were to raise their university funding levels to the national

average, the university would be able to roll back tuition rates to ensure accessibility.

Do your part to ensure an affordable, quality education for your children. Contact Dr. Iyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, and let him know you're concerned about the future of your child's education.

Dr. Oberg's office:

310-0000 (toll-free)
(780) 427-2025 (Edmonton)
(403) 362-6969 (Brooks)

E-mail: Strathmore.Brooks@assembly.ab.ca

CASA
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

* based on a 4-year B.Sc., starting in 2003/04 (tuition, fees, books) and medicine tuition from 2007/08 to 2010/11 (without fees or books)

For more information log on to, www.tuitioncause.com

Hallmark does all the writing

"WISHING YOU A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE THIS SEASON SPECIAL." That may be what's inside of a darling little Christmas card I lifted from my roommate this weekend; however, I can't help but think that, for all the niceties in that little passage, something's missing. To use a tired cliché, where's the love in a card with, as my mother says, the sentiment already embossed?

Well, often, nowhere. I'll admit, though, that I pulled it straight out of the package, and maybe roommate Kyle was planning on writing in-depth reports of his feelings and memories for the recipients. That said, I've seen enough mechanical reproductions of Yuletide statements over my 23 years of Christmas to think that pre-made sentiments of Carleton Cards are in the majority, not the minority.

A quick call to Yim at a card store in Kingsway Mall (the "Precious Moments" and "Forever Friends" series are her favourite card series) confirms that, revealing that about 25 per cent of the cards in her store are a blank slate, waiting for often embarrassing yet true to life messages to grace their page. The other three quarters of Yim's flock, though, come from the Hallmark bluffs, giving countless parents and cousins an excuse to, once again, keep their feelings to themselves for yet another year.

Now, this can be a good idea—I know well enough how families are adept at disliking each other, and maybe these emotional stalemates are what keep dinner tables full on 24 December—but I'd like to think that if we were a little better at writing our own true thoughts onto paper and placing them into the hands of our loved ones, we'd have a fair deal less awkwardness come this season. And maybe a graph charting holiday suicides wouldn't have so high a peak.

The card giants seem to be bending over backward to make sure we don't have put more than a signature to the page, too. Brenda at another store in West Edmonton Mall seemed excited by the variety of relative-specific cards her store is stocking (they've had them since before Halloween, too). There you can buy cards directed to brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, uncles or aunts, as well as cards for Baby's First Christmas. The only complaint she's received so far is that there aren't any cards for "daughters (or sons) and their fiancé(s)."

I'm not going to blame the industry, entirely, here. Obviously, we demand the gold-flecked verses that do the talking for us. I'm going to blame all of us. Until we loosen up, shut those-writer words, and get down to writing our own thoughts on our own relationships, Christmas is going to continue being a little colder than it has to be.

RAYMOND BEISINGER
Managing Editor

Inspection bluffs

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, Iraq has allowed UN weapons inspectors into the country to search for potential biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. The inspectors have 15 weeks to conclude.

Now, call me pompous, but I'll wager that if I were a loopy dictator, I'd be able to state weapons in my own country that I really wanted to.

Hack, if Edmonston was my domain, I bet I could slash something terrible, destructive, and terribly destructive all at once. Selly, I'd like to lay my hand to anything more dangerous than a stapler anytime soon, so I won't be able to call the world's bluff.

And a bluff is all this inspection process is. Some brain-busting combing process, I'll further wager that the inspectors are a mere spook-tactic.

But who're they trying to spook? Didn't Saddam lose the last war?

Oh, wait. I remember now. We spooked Germany back in the day, and then that second war broke out. We spooked Saddam a few years back ...

And now?

BRANDEN PROCE
Sports Editor

LETTERS

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction system overly generous

A recent letter to the editor in the Gateway spoke of the importance of the USRI ("Universal Student Ratings of Instruction often misunderstood," 14 November), which I believe is true.

The letter further explained that the average "grade" for a U of A professor is 3.9 to 4.3 out of 5. The letter then equated this range to roughly an 8 out of 9. Assuming this is true, it would indicate that students, on average, view their professors as above average.

I would disagree with this assessment, based on the wording of the USRI. In order, the numbers 1-5 are equated with "Strongly Disagree," "Disagree," "Neutral," "Agree," and "Strongly Agree."

The connotation of the word neutral implies either that a student does not attend class, or does not care. In the case of a standard question, "I increased my knowledge of the subject areas in this course," if the student feels that they adequately increased their knowledge, they would therefore "agree," giving their professor a 4, or 80 per cent.

I am not familiar with any class that awards 80 per cent for adequacy.

In order to give a better "grade" of the professor's teaching abilities, the scale should offer a 3 for adequacy, a 4 for above expectation, and 5 for excellence.

Even better would be to ask "On a scale of 1 to 5, how much did you increase your knowledge of the subject areas in this course?"

KELLY BUTZ
Electrical Engineering IV

News story misquotes Parkland Institute's conference speech

While I was glad to hear that Parkland Institute's conference, "Trading in Violence, Building for Peace" received some coverage in the Gateway ("Expert highlights crises of global economy," 19 November), I must object to some of the misrepresentations made by the author, Kristine Owram.

Her inaccurate quoting does violence to the cause of both Walden Bello and Naomi Klein.

Ms Owram states, "Despite his apparent convictions, Bello's stance on violent protest tactics seemed to waver throughout his talk. Prior to the audience discussion, Bello stated, 'Naomi Klein, author of No Logo, put it simply yet powerfully when she said that the need of the moment was less civil society and more disobedience and violence.'"

Mr Bello did not make that comment regarding violence (nor did Ms Klein). He is, in fact, quoted as Ms Klein said, "less civil society and more civil disobedience."

Indeed, anyone who has seen *Another World Is Possible*, the film wherein Naomi Klein made this comment, or who heard the Mr Bello give the same speech, would know that Ms Owram's quote was completely inaccurate.

This may seem like a tiny thing

to harp on, but it is crucial to understanding the anti-globalization social movements which, around the world, have grown in recent years.

Walden Bello's convictions on this issue have never swayed, nor have Naomi Klein's, and this dramatic misquote needs to be rectified.

KYLA ELIZABETH SENTES
PhD I, Political Science

Proud to be Canuck

This letter is in reference to our federal communications director's comment, stating that US President Bush is a "moron."

I have never been more proud to be Canadian

ALEX ONDRUS
Mathematical Physics II

Tasty iced treat conceals parallel danger

A word of advice for those of you who enjoy Fudgesicle-style treats: watch out for your top lip. A good chunk of mine was left clinging to the overly frozen surface of a SubMart Nestlé Super Fudge after taking my first bite.

So friends, learn from this when you plunge into your iced confections. I lost a lot of blood and a few tears while gaining an emotional scar that will likely last a lifetime.

JHENIFER PARIILANO
Political Science III

Kyoto arguments parallel past anti-industry battles

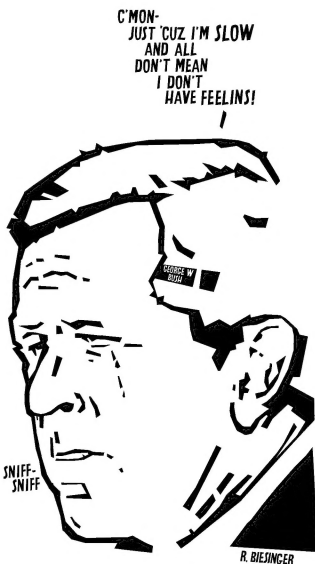
The publicity campaign by the Alberta Provincial government against the Kyoto accord on reducing greenhouse gas emissions appear to be similar to the publicity campaign by the tobacco industry against legislations restricting cigarette advertising.

Premier Klein and Provincial Environment Minister Lorne Taylor sound like old smokers who are grasping at wishful thinking, and using lame excuses for not being able to quit smoking and searching for any justification at all for buying cigarettes.

The tobacco industry has for years denied that cigarettes are addictive, and argue against any science that proves cigarette smoke and second-hand smoke is cancer-causing, or even hazardous to your health, just as the Alberta government is arguing against any science that proves greenhouse gas emissions are hazardous to our environment and to our health.

The truth prevailed when it came to cigarette smoking, and I believe truth will prevail with greenhouse gases. The tobacco industry will continue to fight against any provincial or state legislation that may affect their financial pictures, just as the Alberta government will fight any federal legislation that may, in any way, potentially affect their financial picture.

Representatives of the tobacco industry talk of the jobs they provide, the taxes they pay, the events they sponsor and how great corporate citizens they are. They do not talk about the 45,000 Canadians that die each



year from smoking-related illnesses, nor do they talk about the waitressing dying of lung cancer from 40 years of inhaling second-hand smoke while just doing her job.

The Alberta government talks about jobs, tax revenues and great corporate citizens but they, too, will not talk about the \$16 spent on health care for respiratory ailments for every tonne of greenhouse gas emitted. There is no mention of the increasing droughts, floods, new diseases, forest fires, and the health care costs from human-induced climate change, especially from greenhouse gas emissions.

When it comes to cigarettes, there is widely accepted scientific evidence showing that they are hazardous to your health. When it comes to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, there is scientific evidence, widely accepted by the general population, but industry with deep pockets and politicians with available tax funds will try to disavow them.

The lowly smoker has been stigmatized, relegated to just a few public places and inundated with high tobacco taxes, while big tax paying, emission-belching industries are being protected.

The millions being spent trying to convince us against Kyoto would be better spent on education and supporting the changes needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Like quitting smoking, it is hard, but it is better in the long term for oneself, family, friends and co-workers.

Like quitting smoking, the first step is admitting there is a problem.

We have a problem. Will the Alberta government admit it? The tobacco industry didn't, so I do not think the Alberta government will. Greater forces must prevail. They must for everyone's sake, especially our children.

I hope the Alberta government will just get past the politics and

understand that they were elected by the people, of the people, for the people, and not specifically to serve industry.

As tax paying citizens of this province, we resent the fact that politicians are using our tax dollars to try to convince us that Kyoto is bad, when common sense says otherwise. Kyoto is a goal that offers an incentive to reduce greenhouse gases, but it does not dictate how we accomplish that goal, and we have to devise a Canadian-oriented program to accomplish the end result of 6 per cent below 1990 levels.

We have known of the problem since Rio in 1992. When will we actually do something about it? There has been too much talk; it is now time for action.

GARFIELD MARKS
Red Deer, Alberta

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to managing@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Correction

In the edition of 21 November 2002, the Gateway published an opinion piece written by Raymond Beisinger that stated "since 1981, tuition in Alberta has climbed some 209 per cent." In fact, tuition has increased that amount in the last decade.

THE BURLAP SACK

3:30am on Sunday was more than a bad scene:

Grey Cup Fever was in full swing, and the impaired-driving strain of that virus was endemic as every shitty hotel bar on Jasper was shoeing blue and white-collar vehicular manslaughterers out of their fields of responsibility. The streets were choked with them rushing to get into their Ford F-950s, and twice on our way home from a local club-drove these obese, beefed men pilot their giant, mid-priced automobiles as if they were giant pillows instead of 1.5 tonnes of potential paralysis and death.

One Jersey-wearing Esks' Biggest fan had a big black four-door, and surely all that liquor his swollen red bladder could hold. He also thought it would be a good play if he pulled his four doors into the right lane halfway over the Highway bridge. That he did, without even noticing a car in that lane, causing roommate-driver Kyle and I to need to burn some brakes, swear, almost pull into the grid gliders that hold that bridge up.

Now, I guarantee you that our headlights were on and clean, but less than 100 meters later, past Caution Curve, another super-fan in a new-ish minivan also thought that the right lane was the right lane for him, nearly forcing our Grand Prix onto the sidewalk and into the little tunnel that the trains go under on 109 Street and Saskatchewan Drive.

Hopefully, all those drunks had fucking head attacks or shot themselves when their precious Eskies lost the match on Sunday.

And any of them who didn't score their own final touchdown, like any good impaired driver should? Into the Burlap Sack with them.

RAYMOND BIESINGER

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

A night at the range



JOCELYN CHASE

I hate guns. I hate and fear them. So, naturally, when my boyfriend asked me whether I would like to go fire a few rounds courtesy of our University's Campus Recreation services, I heartily agreed in one giant leap of hypocrisy.

To all those who feel gun control in Canada is adequate, I suggest they visit the Wild West Shooting Range at West Ed. Upon entering, your senses are assaulted with a veritable smorgasbord of guns and gun paraphernalia. Men young and old goe lovingly into the gun cases, sully the glass with the occasional rogue droplet of spittle. If I had a firearm license, I could have dropped two grand and walked out of there with a huge mother shotgun, a gun which would have infinite usefulness in protecting my family from others who have shotguns.

Although morally defiled by my shooting rampage, I learned several things worth sharing.

To my chagrin, 90 per cent of the guns in the store were of this category: guns that have no possible use except to mow down human prey, not white-tailed deer.

Somewhere, in my naïve fantasy world, I had expected higher criteria for gun sales than a presentation of a firearm license, especially if the buyer was in the market for an assault weapon. I also anticipated discerning sales people, but they were generally happy to get a neophyte all fired up with a new gun and ammo, offering tips and anecdotes that would be sure to have him bristling with newfound self-importance.

After our brief safety talk on how

to not blow our hands off, we were ready to exercise our "constitutional freedom" and shoot some big guns. I, for one, was feeling rather nervous, but I felt a silent satisfaction in the knowledge that someone might soon have to mop my vomit, mixed with empty shells, off the range floor. I could have backed out then with noble self-righteousness, but of course, that isn't how the story goes.

I shot rounds first from a revolver and then from semi-automatics. Stepping up to the line with the revolver, I was close to passing out, but the attendant graciously helped by assuring me that this particular gun was "gentle." With sweaty, shaking hands I fired my 24 bullets. Surprisingly, I was pretty good. All my shots managed to find their way to the centre of the target.

Now, this is something that should fill the average Canadian with fear. If someone like me can walk off the street and reliably kill something at 25 paces with an easily acquired gun, what, exactly, is stopping a more determined wacko from becoming a dangerous marksman in a matter of weeks?

Although morally defiled by my shooting rampage, I learned several things worth sharing.

First, range shooting is about as much of a sport as racecar driving. There is no reason to become good at something like shooting unless you plan to use that skill, and anyone who chooses to use that skill will be promptly rewarded with 25 years. Therefore, by this logic, the existence of shooting ranges is incoherent.

Secondly, the ease of acquiring an assault weapon should cause Canadians to reconsider the adequacy of our gun control policies. Is a license and registration enough to let someone own a shotgun? Just because we don't have as many gun murders as the US doesn't make it OK to have 10 million guns loose in Canada, or even as many gun murders as we do have.

And so, I took my target home to disgust my family, and then rolled it up as a reminder that the only way I'll ever hold a gun again is in my cold, dead hands.

Christmas needs Christ



TYSON DURST

I don't know about you, but am I ever pumped for Christmas, just like television says I should be.

The wondrous Christian holiday is coming up soon and the cash registers are ring-a-ring ringing with delight as people stock up to celebrate the birth of Christ. But do people actually remember what Christmas was originally about? It looks like Jesus is really losing out to Santa Claus and lots of cartoon characters these days.

But fear not, Christians, I have devised a plan to put "Chris" back into Christmas.

But fear not, Christians, I have devised a plan to put 'Chris' back into Christmas.

Firstly, licensing a bold new action figure line—starting with the Nativity—would greatly increase Jesus' exposure in the toy aisle. Sculpted in detail with multiple points of articulation, these Holy toys would also be equipped with the best accessories as well as built-in sound chips with your favorite Biblical sayings. While staying true to the spirit of the original Biblical story, there's some room for artistic license—the Wise Men could always use a healthy dose of superpowers and cool-looking battle armour.

The toy line would then tie in nicely to a big-budget Hollywood movie. With today's incredible digital special effects, combined with an A-list cast, such a film would garner a tonne of buzz, and the possibilities for fast-food tie-ins and mass merchandising opportunities would be impressive.

Get Tom Hanks to sign on, and you're practically guaranteed to snag a few Oscars to boot.

And you certainly can't forget about the massive amounts of chocolate that gets consumed this time of year. Where's my Holy Chocolate? Why is it always Santa Claus or a Peanut character that gets immortalized in sugary sweeteners?

Well, wonder no longer. With a new line of chocolate, tentatively titled, Sweet Jesus, your favourite Biblical figures would be represented. People can satisfy their sweet tooth while learning about the story of Christmas on the eye-catching packaging. But toys, movies and chocolate would only be the beginning in elbowing for some more marketing muscle for the guy that Christmas is based on in the first place.

As people flock to shopping malls to buy these fine new products, they'll also notice that fake Santa Claus with his cotton snow and huge lineup of kids finally has some competition. I think the fat man with the white beard and red suit has been monopolizing the shopping mall scene for far too long, and that's where Shopping Mall Jesus comes in.

Specially trained and certified, Shopping Mall Jesus can recount the story of Christmas to children and offer them some salvation to take home. Kids, what would you rather have: a lame-ass colouring book and a crummy candy cane, or your soul saved from eternal damnation in the fiery pit of hell?

As you can see, my plan calls for a coalition between commercialization and greater commercialization, since this is what people know and expect. I can imagine—and this is a hunch—that some people might consider such a proposal distasteful and sacrilegious.

But heck, I don't even subscribe to a religion, and even I find it a tad concerning that many people probably think Scooby-Doo in a Santa hat is the Christian saviour. So, let's get back to what Christmas is all about. Let's back up the truck and unload the Holy merchandise.

'Moron' comment blown out of proportion

MICHAEL WINTERS



Should we really be upset that Françoise Ducros, Jean Chrétien's director of communications, called George Bush a "moron" at a NATO summit in Prague this week?

No, of course not. For one thing, in the context of a private conversation, it's fair comment. George Bush has, after all, regularly dished out bon mots like, "They misestimated me," and, "It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it."

Certainly, Ms Ducros isn't the first to question Bush's intellect, is she? Also, George W would be hypocritical for making a fuss about some random insult making the papers. Bush himself got into the same kind of trouble at a press conference during his presidential campaign. Unaware that his microphone was on, Bush turned to Dick Cheney and said, "There's Adam Clymer of the New York Times, a major league asshole." This is the same guy whose administration

routinely refers to our long-standing Prime Minister as "dino."

And I'll betcha a Coke that what they say about Chrétien behind closed doors is even worse.

But who cares, anyway? Oh right, the opposition parties do. They've pounced upon Ducros' gaffe, charging that somehow Chrétien's unwary, will damage trade relations with our biggest trade partner.

It just distracts from the really shitty things the Liberals do. Like last week, when they refused to reconsider giving compensation to victims of tainted blood, even though criminal charges were laid.

Even if a press flack did have the unprecedented power to affect billions of dollars of trade, a little lip about the US couldn't hurt trade.

This is the supposedly right-wing, pro-free-trade administration that has thumbed their nose at Canadian workers, dishing out massive subsidies

to their farmers while retaining tariffs on softwood lumber. Perhaps if we adopted a more sovereign stance opposed to our neighbours to the south, we'd get more of what we want.

Something along the lines of, "Play ball on trade or shut up about us joining your silly wars."

Anyway, it sucks that the opposition parties will jump on anything that makes the federal government look bad, even though they know it won't stick. It just distracts from the really shitty things the Liberals do. Like last week, when they refused to reconsider giving compensation to victims of tainted blood, even though criminal charges were laid.

And what about the long line of ethically challenged Liberal ministers who have resigned for awarding contracts to party supporters, family members and even their girlfriends? Chrétien's response to that is his much-ballyhoosed ethics package, which still leaves much discretion to the PM himself. So much for reform...

There's too much for the opposition to sink their teeth into. And of all the issues to put up front and centre last week, the amplification of some party back's flub does little except provide an excuse for those dinks on Crossfire to bash Canada.

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Martin should dump his halo



ARI
HAGISWAIS

Right now, I am thinking of a man who has a rendezvous with destiny: Saint Martin.

Before he was beatified, his friends called him Paul. These same people say he was Canada's most brilliant Finance Minister ever; he eradicated the sinful federal deficit, and he laboured tirelessly to create the greatest economic growth streak seen in Canada since the end of the war.

Those were cut, dreams were realized. Now, he stands poised to become Prime Minister and deliver social justice to all, end regional strife, revive the dignity of Parliament and restore Canadians' confidence in government and democracy itself.

You shouldn't doubt that the man can deliver. He is bright, hardworking and personally charming. At the same time being optimistic and a dreamer, he is a hard-nosed realist who doesn't take guff and knows how to get the job done when the going gets tough.

It's all these traits that have made him the front-runner for the Prime Minister's chair. So, why is he squandering his lead and his future with newbie mistakes?

St Martin is currently trying his

hand at a dance known as the Kyoto Two-Step. On one hand, he really would like to support it to gain the accolades of the environmental lobby, which would definitely broaden his appeal beyond the Bay Street types. On the other hand, the oil titans in Calgary do give him a lot of money for his campaign, and he wouldn't want a fuss in Alberta after making speeches about bringing the West (meaning, rich Alberta) into his fold.

St Martin is busy promising the sky for all times and all peoples, but that halo of his is going to get a lot heavier in the next 14 months.

So we get statements from him that he has always supported Kyoto, but he really wants to see a consensus on the agreement first, between all governments and industry. My guess is that St Martin is thinking of a graceful walk, but I'd think that the likes of Esso and Ralph Klein want a tap dance on his forehead.

This is nothing compared to his problems with parliamentary reform and patronage.

Consider this: in an effort to distance himself from the lethargy of Jean Chrétien, St Martin has promised to loosen party discipline in Parliament

and give MPs real clout.

Now consider this: many journalists have remarked with awe how Martin is the only man ever to overthrow a popular sitting Prime Minister. That doesn't come cheap.

To throw a punch you need putshits—lots of them—and they expect to be richly rewarded, all at once. The picture is a masterpiece of comedy and tragedy. Long-suffering MPs, shackles removed and smelling the sweet fragrance of freedom and power, stampede, as a single body, to claim their piece of the action, only to run head-on into Martin's putshits who are thinking the same thing. The explosion of bruised egos in Ottawa will be heard as far away as Prince Rupert and Conception Bay.

St Martin is busy promising the sky for all times and all peoples, but that halo of his is going to get a lot heavier in the next 14 months. So why bother with it? Why not dump the halo and just be regular Paul?

He can't erase nine years of red meat budgeting as Finance Minister. At the same time, his past doesn't mean he can't pick a pet social program—health care, for instance—and groom it well. You will notice an aura of inner peace amid Jean Chrétien's chaotic routine today. It's there because he knows he's made his choices for his last year in office, and he's sticking with them. St Martin could improve on his old boss by starting this sort of thing early.

The silver polish for the halo is too expensive, anyway.

A life in profile: Cora R Cunningham



CORA
CUNNINGHAM

your house up naked. I figured this was a great idea, minus the ceiling, of course. So, I put on some tunes, undressed, and decided to give the old folks' home across the street the show of the week.

After re-discovering the boogie in my butt, I got bored. So, I turned on the computer and decided to e-mail some friends. Now, you know how DWI (driving while intoxicated) is bad, now just multiply that by 40 and to the power of five and you now have the embarrassing factor of e-mailing while intoxicated. This is because, for one, it's in writing, which means the recipients can read it over and over and over. It can also be shared, forwarded and printed. I love technology.

I feel like I've been a bad girl. I'm sure if I were six, I would undoubtedly get a spanking for my behaviour as of late.

On Friday afternoon, for example, some gentlemen twisted my arm, forcing me to join them for a beer. Well there was no one beer; rather, there was pitchers of beer. Consuming generous amounts of intoxicant turned me into a loath and incoherent diva. Creeping into my head came crazy ideas of instant indulgences (which undoubtedly would have resulted in delayed mortification).

The next morning I woke up with the worst case of ceiling fright, and it was my ceiling. And it smelled like a cigarette-smoking cat soaked in bourbon pissed in my bed.

Well, I thought I had e-mailed all my girlfriends, but in the morning, I realized I had sent all the letters to the wrong people. A juicy little story about my date on Thursday was sent to a professor. And the sappy little "feel sorry for me" number? Sent to three people, who I'm sure didn't need or didn't want to get to know me so personally.

But my personal favourite: I e-mailed the pictures of my girlfriend's birthday party to my mom. I know too well how impressed she is. "Wow, is that my little girl doing a keg stand? I'm sure happy she's making something of herself."

Of all the mistaken identities, I expected sympathy from my mother the most. I was wrong. She forwarded the pictures to all my relatives with a small reminder not to forget to discuss my love for the camera at Christmas dinner. I love my mother.

Soon after the e-mailing extravaganza, this sister came home, with friends. This is not a bad thing in itself, but the fact I was still naked was. I cried myself to sleep.

The next morning I woke up with the worst case of ceiling fright, and it was my ceiling. And it smelled like a cigarette smoking cat soaked in bourbon pissed in my bed.

I then realized that smell was me. I felt like a bad girl. A bad girl who needed a shower.

Tuition rising to the point of absurdity



KELLY
FITZGIBBON

Ah yes, the annual U of A tradition known as the eye-gouging-brain-hemorrhaging-disenbowning-hike-proposal has returned with a vengeance, and unless you hapless young students have been living under tuition-proof rocks for the past few weeks, you will have heard screams of agony responding to the proposed 6.4 per cent increase.

If you recall, that's nearly twice as high as last year's increase, and as an added bonus, students in the Medicine and Law programs can now look forward to the cost of learning increasing to about \$12 000 over the next decade, not including details like textbooks.

Though I am in arts, and could very well turn the other cheek while snickering at my unfortunate friends going into said faculties, I can't—as I'm not yet devoid of morality and compassion—stand idly by and watch these hikes occur.

The \$5000 a year for my BA is difficult enough to scrounge up working my ass off year-round for minimum wage. I can't imagine having to pay this exorbitant amount for tuition. Even if these students find those rare, \$15/hour summer jobs, have rich parents and cushy loans, the cost of their education will nevertheless be steep.

In my head, images arise of all-law-student brothels popping up over the next few years, as prostitution becomes the only means of affording tuition. The illegal human-organ-trade will do smashing business as well, as starving Med students stand to gain not only a few grand for that useless extra kidney, but also good surgical

practice. Think of the possibilities!

Or perhaps the University could introduce a "First-Born Child" clause in which the undersigned agree to donate their newborn babes to the University for research purposes. Even better, these young tykes could eventually pay for themselves with the return of Victorian-era style child labour practices.

I can see it now: rows of undernourished painters and bricklayers, renovating the now-dilapidated arts buildings and libraries. Maybe a more Swiftian *Modest Proposal* could be implemented, where delinquent students could sell their offspring and relations to the Board of Governors as fodder.

I hear a deal with Atramak is in the works.

You may now all be thinking this seems somewhat far-fetched and ridiculous, but all joking aside, what other recourse remains? Can the SU and its idealist/zealot President Mike Hudema

make a difference? If history is any indication, the chances aren't good.

While then-SWAG member Hudema looked awfully charming in his chicken-suit and spouted a mighty-fine bit of anti-tuition rhetoric at last year's BoG meeting, it will take more than homestead signs and some bullhorns to change the University's mind this year. Though direct action sounds more effective than former SU President Chris Samuel's approach of talk and negotiation in 2001, more is needed than mere angry slogans and masochists.

I applaud the current SU prez for his determination to stand against this ridiculous proposal. Now that he is in this position, however, if the students are going to take him seriously, Hudema will have to walk a fine line.

Good luck, Mike, you will need it. In the meantime, I have a meeting with my pimp downtown and a lung on eBay that needs selling.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Ways to end the North Korean nuclear threat

- Let them know that if they disarm they can trade their membership in the "Axis of Evil" for a membership in the "Axis of Awesome."
- Using some old *Incredible Hulk* comic books, show them the grave consequences of messing around with radioactivity.
- Offer to trade each warhead for something that appeals to their communist desires, like a subscription to Redbook.
- Try a little reverse psychology: tell them South Korea thinks having nuclear weapons is totally cool.
- More relation-building activities with the free world, like Bring Your North Korean to Work Day.
- Stoke their egos by offering leader Kim Jong Il recurring guest appearances on *Friends*.
- Send in the mighty weapons inspectors, then, when no one's looking, have them pull the old switcheroo by replacing the real nuclear warheads with fake paper maché ones.
- Threaten that if they don't comply with the US, Tom Clancy is going to write a book making them look like a real bunch of jerks.
- Trick them into running their weapons systems on OS X, thereby effectively rendering them useless.
- Tell them the main ingredient in plutonium is actually capitalism.

Recognizing these self-destructive thoughts, as well as the fact that my decision making process was comparable to that of Drew Barrymore's when she agreed to marry Tom Green, I decided the best thing for me would be to go home.

But when I got home, it was still early. Like only 6:30.

At home, there was an untouched bottle of wine and a recent publication of a trashy, herein unnamed, woman's magazine. I began to read some stupid article: "How to increase your sex appeal." One suggestion was to clean



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STUDENTS' UNION

SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Tuesday, 26 November, 2002

WEEKEND SCORES

Basketball	Pandas (2-4)
22 November	Pandas 62, Huskies 70
23 November	Pandas 65, Huskies 73
	Bears (3-3)
22 November	Bears 90, Huskies 79
23 November	Bears 72, Huskies 94
Hockey	Pandas (10-0-0)
15 November	Pandas 8, Thunderbirds 1
16 November	Pandas 17, Thunderbirds 0
	Bears (11-2-1)
15 November	Bears 4, Thunderbirds 1
16 November	Bears 5, Thunderbirds 1
Volleyball	Pandas (7-3)
15 November	Pandas 3, Huskies 0
16 November	Pandas 3, Huskies 0
	Bears (10-0)
15 November	Bears 3, Huskies 0
16 November	Bears 3, Huskies 2

ATHLETIC NOTES



JON YU

The win bus rolled after both weekend games.

Hockey

In an unprecedented display of merciless ice-flogging, the **Pandas (10-0-0)** annihilated the visiting Thunderbirds 17-0 on Sunday afternoon, not to mention an 8-1 blasting on Saturday. Danielle Bourgeois led Panda scoring this weekend with five goals over the two games.

Though not quite as flashy, the **Bears (11-2-1)** won both of their contests this weekend as well. They outscored UBC 4-1 on Friday and 5-1 on Saturday. Steve Shrum netted a pair of biscuits in the latter matchup.

Volleyball

The undefeated **Bears (10-0)** won a pair of games this weekend to pad their national lead. Sandy Henderson led Alberta with 31 kills on Saturday night.

The **Pandas (7-3)** were able to stave off a hungry Husky pack for a pair of 3-0 wins this weekend. Tawana Wardlaw led the Pandas with 17 kills on Friday night.

Basketball

Christie Shevchuk scored 21 points for the **Pandas (2-4)** this weekend, despite the team losing both games to the home-town Huskies.

The **Bears (3-3)** fared a little better, splitting their series in Saskatchewan. Phil Scherer scored a season-high 31 points on Friday, and had 51 on the weekend.

CORRECTION

Gateway Sports incorrectly reported the name of a Bears volleyball player in article dated 21 November. "Colin Irvine" should in fact have read "Colin Stephenson".

More, Mr Stephenson is a libero, not a middle, as the article says.

The mistake is the department's, not the author's.



JON YU

A worn UBC defence chugs after the puck while Jamie Coffin (9) and the Pandas were energetic enough to slam in 25 biscuits over the series.

Puck Pandas swat UBC 17-0

Alberta outscores UBC 25-1 over two games, including Saturday's 8-1 lickin'

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

Some say the key to a good defence is a solid offence. Does it work both ways, though? Can a defensive defence be the key to superior offence?

The Pandas hockey team seemed to throw away the defensive zone game plan this weekend though, on account of simply not needing it: UBC (1-9) made the trip to Clare Drake Arena, relinquishing 25 goals over two games.

"It's hard to maintain your focus in these type of games because you don't have to be as intense," fourth-year defender Lara Ruppell explained. "It's hard to get up for games when you know the competition isn't going to be as strong."

Ruppell scored her first hat trick as a Panda in Saturday's 8-1 victory. UBC played a tight "pre-

vent" defence around goalie Lucie Fortin that was reasonably effective, considering Alberta had 50 shots in the game. However, it also allowed the Pandas' defence to step up in the play and generate more scoring opportunities.

"Our defence are fairly strong. They're smart enough to see when to jump in and when not to. We're capitalizing when we have our chances, so it's a positive thing," team captain Judy Diduck commented. Diduck adds plenty of firepower at the blue line from her experience as a Canadian national team member.

UBC had but nine shots in the game, and only one in the first period. The scorekeepers admitted too that the first shot was fabricated, tallied when a Panda passed the puck back to goalie Andrea Thomas.

Ruppell also confessed that "the team could feel goals against UBC." Never was this more evident than in Sunday's 17-0 blowout. The top line of Danielle Bourgeois, Kristen Hagg and Lori Shupak accounted for over half of the production, notching nine markers combined. Another defender, Jill Chmilar, had two goals.

"We're trying to strive as much as possible to get close to perfection and it's never a perfect

game, regardless of your opponents. There's lots of things I felt we could have done better," head coach Howie Draper said, emphasizing what the team will need to work on for tougher opponents. He was the most disappointed about the last-minute lapse that allowed UBC to score in Saturday's match.

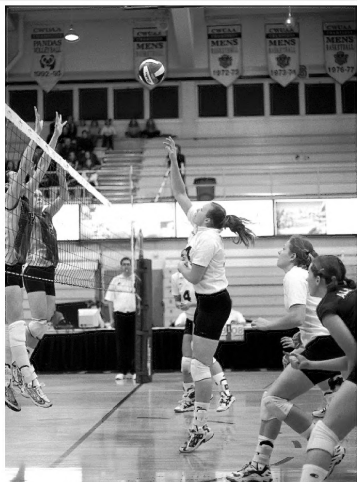
Interestingly, a 17-0 win is hardly surprising this season in CIS action; the most lopsided victory so far was fourth-ranked Concordia's 20-1 drubbing of Carleton.

BEARS OVERWHELM UBC

The top-ranked Bears also had their share of target practice this weekend, with 92 shots against the male T-Birds. Each member of the "Hound Dog" line scored in Friday's 4-0 victory, including Mark Polak, who got his first as a Golden Bear.

"I'm glad that one's out of the way and hope there's more to come. It's been a great opportunity to play in this program. They go to nationals almost every year, so I was really excited to get a chance to play with the Bears."

The Bears won 5-1 on Saturday on the strength of two goals from Steve Shrum.



JAMIE EDENLOFF (LEFT) / LAUREN JENNINGS (RIGHT)

TWO TEAMS, SAME TALE Both volleyball squads won their two-game series at the Main Gym this weekend. The first three games went in straight sets, but the Bears' last match needed five to be decided. The men came back from a two sets to one deficit to win the lengthy contest.

Home team wins; fans devastate city

JOE SMITH
Michigan Daily Sports Editor

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (U-WIRE) — "We didn't start the fire."

That's what some Ohio State students were claiming following the 49 arrests that were made early on 24 November, after close to a dozen fires were reported in a 10-block area of Columbus, Ohio.

Just more than five hours after Ohio State's dramatic 14-9 victory over the Michigan Wolverines—which sent the Buckeyes football team to the national title game—police were forced to use tear gas and pellets to disperse a crowd of hundreds of fans near campus.

"Up until midnight, when a few parties went out of control, it was a pretty quiet night," said Sherry Mercurio, Columbus police spokeswoman.

"It's disappointing that some irresponsible people can try to take attention away from the great things the football team accomplished."

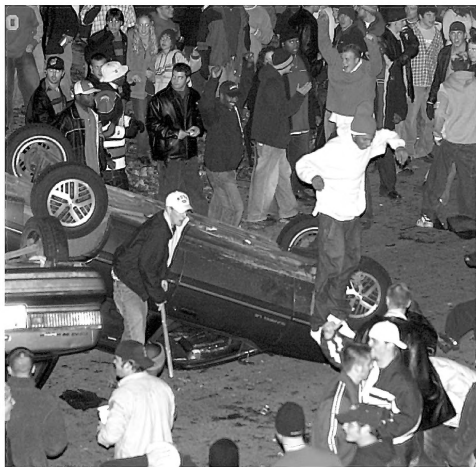
But after midnight, several blocks close to campus were filled with excited fans, couch-burning, car-flipping and destruction of property, according to Mercurio.

Close to twelve cars were flipped over, piled together and burned on one street alone, said an Ohio State senior student who wished to remain anonymous.

The senior, who was one of the many to be eventually sprayed with mace by police, said the riot started when a mattress was set on fire. What started as several guys with shirts off daring each other to run through the blaze turned into "car after car getting flipped, one every five minutes," said the senior.

"About half of them that were flipped were set on fire," he said. "Then some people took shovels and baseball bats and were hitting the cars, one by one."

That's when police officers, with riot gear and tear gas, surrounded the street. "Even though I was just standing there, I turned around and got maced," he said.



WINNING PRODUCT A crazed frenzy rages in Columbus, Ohio after the home team's 14-9 victory.

"And I could barely see where I was running, so I ran into a parked car. I tried to get out as fast as I could."

Mercurio said the police didn't use riot gear until "people were pelting fire fighters and civilians with rocks and wouldn't allow fire fighters the ability to do their job and maintain control."

Although riots let loose in campus streets after "The Game," precautionary measures such as greasing up the goal posts and placing nearly 220 police officers at Ohio Stadium were somewhat effective in controlling the largest crowd ever to

watch a game in Ohio (105 539).

Jon Putnam, a senior accounting major from Ohio State, said he remembers two years ago after the Buckeyes lost to Michigan at home: "People wanted to riot every weekend following that, for no reason."

That year, the initial riot after Ohio State's loss was on a far lesser scale than Saturday's. Starting sometime after 2am, 129 trash fires were set, many vehicles were damaged and about 25 people were arrested, according to police reports.

Hit on court leads to charges

PAUL ZOMER
Interloping Sports Writer

LONDON, Ontario (CUP) — A member of Sheridan College's men's basketball team is awaiting a court date following his arrest during a tournament at Fanshawe College.

Bynoe Terril, a

21-year-old

Sheridan player,

was charged with

assault after a referee

was allegedly

knocked down

shortly after he

ejected Sheridan

coach Jim Hack

from the game.

Referee Mike

Foubert then cancelled

the game between

Sheridan and

Michigan's Madonna

University with just

under 11 minutes

remaining in the contest.

"The victim approached the scoring table after

the game had been officially terminated," said

London Police Constable Paul Martin. "While [at

the scoring table] the accused is alleged to have

intentionally struck the victim using an abdomen

to abdomen movement, causing the victim

to fall backwards on the ground."

Police were called and officers charged Terril

with one count of assault.

Martin said Foubert had "minor injuries consisting

of a sore shoulder."

The Ontario College Athletic Association

(OCAA) suspended Terril for one game pending

the result of his trial. The OCAA also suspended

Hack for one game.

The incident began after an irate Hack fol-

lowed Foubert on the court complaining about

what Hack called the referee's "unprofessional"

conduct.



Bynoe Terril

Fight

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Volunteer Now!

Volunteers needed for:
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Volunteer Sheets will be available all SU Info
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For more information, please contact:

Mike Hudema, President, Students' Union / 492.4236 / president@su.ualberta.ca

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?

U of A, Faculty of Education

Bachelor of Education
Information Session

DATE: Thursday, November 28, 2002
TIME: 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
LOCATION: BIOSC M 145

A broad overview of the
various program routes
will be discussed and your
questions will be answered.





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TeamPlayers.ca

STEVE MOORE, TEAM MEMBER, RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES.



UN CHANTEUR PASSIONNÉ Martin Sexton played to a crowded Dinwoodie Lounge last Saturday night.

PATRICK DACKES

MONKEY HOT-PANTS



Kung fu grip, the action figure feature, has nothing on these Shaolin soccer hooligans.

Shaolin Soccer

Directed by Stephen Chow
Starring Stephen Chow, Vicki Zhao,
and Man Tat Ng

Shaolin Soccer, the Hong Kong movie about a soccer team that uses the power of their kung fu to become dominant soccer players, has been getting a lot of hype in film freak circles.

However, this type of film doesn't usually live up to the hype and isn't that much fun for a non-film geek audience. Shaolin Soccer doesn't just break both of those preconceptions; it flips them up in the air and kicks them into the sun with its masterful Shaolin kung fu.

The soccer action somehow manages to be both awesome and hilarious at the same time. The movie follows the formula of the sports movie without fail, yet the soccer is so great and the characters so engaging that the formulaic nature of the plot never becomes an issue.

There are, of course, a few minor problems with the movie: all the versions that are currently available have subtitles that are riddled with typographical errors (although some say this is adds to the film). Also, if you wait for the Miramax version to come to theatres next April, you will be in for some horrendous dubbing and stupid cuts and edits. The best way to avoid the evil dub will be to see the film right now.

Really, skip class for the rest of the day and see Shaolin Soccer: it was so good I headbutted my dog. — Daniel Kaszor

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Soderbergh's latest is thought-provoking

However, ending ruins potentially thoughtful and powerful film

Solaris

Directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starring George Clooney, Natasha McElhone,
Ulrich Tukur, and Jeremy Davies
Opens Wednesday, 27 November

ADAM RUZENHART
Entertainment Editor

Solaris will likely go down in history as one of the sharpest, most thought-provoking films in the past five years. It will then go down as a film with one of the shittiest and laziest Hollywood endings ever created.

Based on Polish sci-fi novelist Stanislaw Lem's novel by the same name, *Solaris* starts out as a cerebral examination of the philosophical issues of what makes humans human, the existence or non-existence of God, and the idea of destiny and fate.

Chris Kelvin (George Clooney) is a psychologist haunted by the death of his wife Rheya (Natasha McElhone). She committed suicide and he blames himself. Kelvin lives his life in a listless stupor until a pair of individuals from "the company" visit and bring him a message from his friend Gibarian (Ulrich Tukur).

Gibarian has been studying Solaris, an oceanic energy planet. Perhaps not at all surprising, strange things are happening and of course Gibarian tells Kelvin that he must see these phenomena for himself. Kelvin makes the trip to Solaris, and finds Gibarian dead, and only two of the crew left alive. To make matters even more complicated, Kelvin has found what seems to be a resurrection of his wife on the space station orbiting Solaris.

Without giving too much away, it is up to the souls left on the space station to stop the bizarre manifestations of deceased or otherwise absent people who are appearing, and to figure out a way to get back to Earth.

The narrative flow of the film involves a series



DR KELVIN, I PRESUME? George Clooney stars in Stanislaw Lem's *Solaris*.

of flashbacks about the Kelvins' life together, masterfully arranged in a very Soderbergh-esque style, using a great deal of blurred images slowly coming into focus. This technique has two opposite effects; at first, it is a great means of building tension. But after the fifth or sixth time this device is used, it's frustrating to watch.

If you decide to take a washroom break during *Solaris*, make sure you do it about five minutes before the film ends.

The film combines Soderbergh's style (which most prominently matches camerawork and narrative structure from *The Limey*) in a world very similar to that of a combination of *Sphere* and *Event Horizon* (without Sam Neill tearing his eyes out and being a creep). The alien life form

of *Solaris*, with which the crew must deal, isn't as sinister as the evil in *Event Horizon*, but it isn't benign either.

While the survivors must find a way to get back home, they also struggle with some important philosophical questions about humanity and destiny. Fortunately, the commentary on these questions isn't heavy handed, and it is left up to the audience to draw their own conclusions... until the end.

I won't tell you how this seemingly worthwhile film concludes, but it's one of those endings that has potential, depending on what you take from it, to nullify any progress the rest of the narrative made. The ending is a very nicely packaged conclusion, in the fashion of "they live happily ever after."

If you decide to take a washroom break during *Solaris*, make sure you do it about five minutes before the film ends. Otherwise, you'll be left unfulfilled and annoyed at Hollywood for getting their hands on, and subsequently ruining, an excellent story.

Ember Swift is making a difference

EmberSwift

with Jennifer Kroatz
PowerPlant
Tuesday, 26 November at 8:30pm

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Ember Swift doesn't want to steer society with her music, but she does want to make a dent. The Toronto-based musician says her show is "about raising awareness and making people think."

Swift, a prominent contributor to the legal fees of those arrested during the 2001 Québec protest of the FTAA, expresses, "It would be really great if everyday, every time we do a show, someone left saying 'I never thought about that subject before. Hey, I'm going to write my MP, or attend that rally, or maybe I'll stop buying that product.'"

Making an appearance at the PowerPlant Tuesday night, Ember Swift is sure to ignite a few political and social sparks in the audience with the help of band members Lyndell Montgomery and Adam Bowman. Concertgoers won't suddenly be warring placards, but they will certainly enjoy, and perhaps even be inspired by Swift's eclectic musical style she simply dubbed, "hyphenated."

Like so many artists, Swift's music defies the concept of genre, and in an ironic twist, she categorized, by genre, each song on the back cover of her latest record, *Still Walking*. Her musical classification was the product of suggestions from friends; Swift's sound was labeled by a "series of sarcasms like 'jazzpella' and 'doo-warp.'"



A SWIFT MIND Ember Swift says she uses her music to provoke thought.

"I just thought it was so funny that I had to do the tongue-in-cheek thing," she lightly professes.

But as elusive as a dominant Swift style might be, its mercurial quality serves to appropriately explore the unifying theme of the power of change, something explored on her latest album in terms ranging from the desperation to begin more frequent laundry habits ("The Underwear Song") to political issues ("Rubber Bullets").

Expressing such a positive message is something Swift simply identifies as her responsibility as a person. It just so happens that art is a really great vehicle for social change, she says.

"Music is entirely message based," postulates Swift, but she is wistful in reflecting on the fact that "it's been a long time since there's been another Joni Mitchell," an artist who Swift especially admires as someone who "does what she wants to do," and is still regarded as an exceptional

artist.

Swift knowingly points out, "If you choose to sing a song like 'I don't give a shit, who cares,' that's a message. It's a message of apathy. Everything says something, but it would be wonderful if everything said something constructive, positive."

Such sentiment seems especially needed in a society where Swift laments, "People start to feel that they can't make a difference; it's just too big, like just because I don't buy hamburger from that one fast-food restaurant doesn't mean anything in the world. But it's a terrible way to think."

"I'm gearing towards the general vibe that we as individual citizens can make a difference... whatever that subject might be about," she continues. Promising a vast and varied repertoire of songs of positive messages and energetic and eclectic melodies, Ember Swift is sure to affect such audience empowerment.

The Emperor's Club is an uninspired rip-off

The Emperor's Club

Directed by Michael Hoffman
Starring Kevin Kline, Emile Hirsch,
and Emeth Davidtz
Now playing

TAZ DHARWAL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Kevin Kline has had his good roles come and go. From his Oscar-winning psychopath in *A Fish Called Wanda* to his much-beloved turn in the Stephen Biko biopic *Cry Freedom*, he has proven himself as one of the mainstays of post-modern American film.

But with the long stand he's had in Hollywood come the ravages of time and the desire for more glory. *The Emperor's Club* is apparently the project Kline thought would give him another chance at Oscar glory. But it falls quite short of his closest chance, in *Ang Lee's The Ice Storm*.

The Emperor's Club is a coming-of-age film that tries to make you feel like you're part of the most fortunate society on Earth, namely the wealthy elite who control almost everything in order to turn a profit.

But the children of the elite are coming into their own and they realize that everything is in their power unless they screw up royally by killing a stranger or developing a coke habit.

Directed by Michael Hoffman (*Soapdish*, *Restoration*), *The Emperor's Club* is a look at William Hundert (Kline), a Classics teacher at a highly reputable prep school in

the mid '70s. Kline's portrayal as a straight-laced professor who "takes no guff" is very empty when contrasted with Sedgewick Bell, played by Emile Hirsch (*The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*).

Bell, a powerful senator's son, enrolls in the school, and proceeds to dismantle Hundert's classroom life, while creating life-long bonds with Hundert, who is obviously the nearest thing Bell has had to a father figure.

But no matter what happens to Bell, Kline continues to show little emotion or range with his Hundert character. Are we supposed to believe that of all the students Kline teaches there was only one in particular that was a rotten apple? Something else that required more context was Hundert's personal life. Nothing of a significant other (male or female) is ever mentioned, nor anything about his home life. The school is Hundert's home, and it makes for a boring life.

The audience gets no dissection of Hundert. Instead, they are presented with an empty shell that cries to be filled by Kline. We get a private school teacher who tries to leave his mark on his wealthy elite students. Kline plays another empty teacher (for more evidence, check out *Orange County*) trying to be the next Robin Williams as in *Dead Poets' Society* but without the angst and the tragedy.

It's as though they dipped the film in liquid sugar and sent it off to the theatres. Don't waste your time with *The Emperor's Club*.

Go see Robin Williams in *Dead Poets' Society* instead.



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@ Clare Drake Arena
vs. Regina Friday & Saturday 7:30

Bears & Pandas Basketball
@ Main Gym
vs. Lethbridge Friday & Saturday
Pandas play at 6:30
Bears play at 8:15



For Locations, Times, Tickets and more information:
492.2231 or check out www.bears.ualberta.ca or www.pandas.ualberta.ca



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

TUITION TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, November 27, 2002

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Council Chamber
2-1 University Hall

University Administration, together with the Graduate Students' Association & the Students' Union will discuss this year's tuition proposal.

This will be an opportunity for the campus community to ask questions and discuss the tuition issue.

You are encouraged and welcome to attend.

You will like it hot

Some Like it Hot

Directed by Billy Wilder

Starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, and Marilyn Monroe

Metro Cinema
Saturday, 30 November at 9pm
Monday, 2 December at 7pm

ADAM "LIKES IT HOT" HOUSTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Remember how *Die Hard* was a great movie, but then we had *Die Hard* on a plane, and on a train, in a box and with a fo? Well, *Some Like it Hot* is the *Die Hard* of drag comedy, except the fox comes already included. And it's freakin' brilliant.

Where to begin? I rented this about a year ago in the midst of one those "catching up on the classics" video marathons. I could appreciate most of the others I rented, but most were either hopelessly dated, or had been ripped off so many times they'd lost all their impact.

Not this film. Once you get past the first 15 minutes—one of the only weak stretches to be found—this story of two guys slipping into stockings to escape from trouble could be set just about any time and any place. In fact, since 1959, it has been set everywhere; you can see exactly where so many films, and countless sitcom episodes, got their material. Which makes it all the more impressive when you realize this is where it was done right.

That's not the only realization I made. I also came away with an understanding of the whole Marilyn Monroe mythos. I'd never been that impressed with the ubiquitous posters, and based on her other films I'd seen, I thought she was the prototypical floozy who performed better on the casting couch than onscreen. Was I ever wrong.

Marilyn makes it worthwhile, but it's the comedy that makes it a classic. Sure, it's equal parts Shakespeare and the Marx Brothers, but in Billy Wilder's hands, the result is a screwballer's screwball comedy. It single-handedly justifies the existence of the guys-

as-dolls comic subgenre (well, okay, Tootsie had its moments).

If you ever wondered why Jack Lemmon appears in every comedy about crotchety senior citizens made in the last decade, it's because all the crotchety senior citizens in the audience saw this movie when it came out, and now remember how funny he can be. The shenanigans of Lemmon and Tony Curtis get pretty risqué too; you'll be amazed at what they got away with in 1959. A warning for the faint of heart, though: neither makes much of a looker, we're talking Wesley Snipes in *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything*, Julie Newmar territory.

If you ever wondered why Jack Lemmon appears in every comedy about crotchety senior citizens made in the last decade, it's because all the crotchety senior citizens in the audience saw this movie when it came out, and now remember how funny he can be.

Speaking of ugly, Hollywood often makes it hard to believe that men wearing women's clothing haven't always been a drag. Starting from the one-time rock bottom of *Big Momma's House*, 2002 has broken out the heavy drilling equipment to unearth both Juwanma Mann and Sorority Boys. I know, I saw these films.

In such dire circumstances, one starts to wonder what the last remotely watchable guys-in-disguise misadventure was. Then the sad realization dawns that you'll have to go with *Mrs. Doubtfire*.

Don't bother. You'll like it hot.



The Wallflowers
Red Letter Days
Intercope
www.wallflowers.com

DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager

Zzz... what huh? Oh sorry, I was just listening to the Wallflower's *Red Letter Days* and I fell asleep. It's not that there's anything especially wrong with the music of Jakob Dylan and the hair-spray-induced replicates of himself that he calls his band, other than the boringness factor of his music.

This isn't a new problem for the Wallflowers. The single off their first album, "One Headlight," wasn't a bad song, you just felt tired after hearing it, like the band's mission was to lull you to sleep. *Red Letter Days* is similarly unexciting. None of the tracks stick out as being especially good, or bad, or anything at all.

Despite its powers as a sleeping pill, the album will probably sell like umbrellas in Vancouver: it sounds mixes with the bland pop-rock mentality of the new wave rock bands superbly.



Seether
Disclaimer
Wind-Up Entertainment, Inc.
www.seether.com

SHAUN FLANNAGAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the seemingly endless proliferation of groups falling into the post-grunge genre, Seether is an example of yet another group that sounds like they're Chad Kroeger's protégé.

But, in all honesty, Seether might actually be better than most groups in this genre. *Disclaimer* features awfully dad lyrics, and an edgy anger that doesn't sound like it was manufactured in a studio. Nevertheless, the impact generated by these qualities is not enough to allow *Disclaimer* to overcome that cookie-cutter sound of every other band on mainstream rock stations.

If you like the post-grunge sound found on *Disclaimer*, your best bet is to save \$15 as well as a trip to the music store by listening to some better music on your old Pearl Jam and Nirvana discs.

The Original Canadian City Dweller's Almanac

Facts, Rants, Anecdotes and Unsupported Assertions for Urban Residents by Hal Niedzviecki and Darren Wershler-Henry
Viking Publishers
246 pages

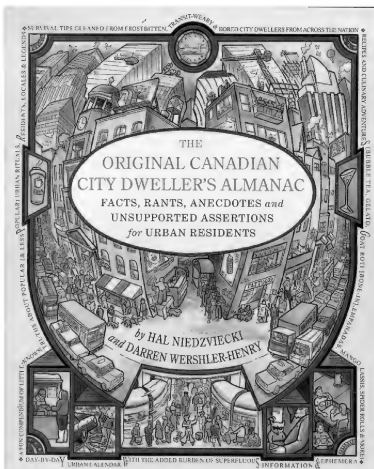
KRIS BEREZANSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Giving a broad overview of the trends and lifestyle that set the urban apart from the rural, the *Original Canadian City Dweller's Almanac* reveals a somewhat biased and anti-capitalist look at what makes Canada great.

This book is more of a survival guide to living in a city than it is an almanac, with interesting information like history, fun facts, and subpar cartoons. If you live anywhere other than Vancouver or the East, this book is pointless as a city guide, but insightful to the way in which Canadians live. That's not to mention the inclusion of some witty comments on fun things to do on the bus or how Degraisi is the definition of Canadian television.

Written by two ultra-hip, indie culture lovers, *OCDDA* tries to tell Canadians where their culture resides and what defines it. They are strictly against big business, franchises and Hollywood, but unfortunately most city dwellers approve of and embrace these things.

The writers take their views and try to ram 'em down the readers' throats. Sure, it's funny at times, but it gets old quickly. This book is more for those who pay attention to Canada and don't ignore the obvious issues that should be a part of people's lives such as the environment, supporting independent retailers and embracing local music



and film. Once again the writing is stuck in the Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal mentality.

While Edmonton isn't that great a Canadian city, we are quite under-represented in this book. There is a bit about how we were a trading post, and they take a few jabs at West Edmonton Mall. It also mentions Audrey's Books as one of the few things worth visiting downtown. They avoid our Fringe Festival, but mention Vancouver and Toronto's. The biggest mistake about Alberta was the incorrect statement that the University of Alberta is in Calgary and not Edmonton (see the

page on webcams).

OCDDA is a humorous read, but jumps around from place to place too often. The reader never really learns about a specific city, just a general view of how people in Canadian cities live, at least in Ontario. True, there are fun facts, like that on my birthday in 1851 the anti-slavery society of Toronto was formed, but these really don't justify the need or the want of this book.

The best use for this is to give it to someone who's new to Canada. It provides a good beginner's look at how many, but not all, urban Canadians go about their daily lives.

ONLY A FEW MORE TO GO...

Another season of newspaper-making is coming to a close. But it ain't over yet, my loyal writers. One more meeting will be had this Thursday, where there will be much joke issue discussion, and perhaps a free CD or two, as an early Christmas gift.

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The String Cheese Incident

Outside Inside
Sci Fidelity Records
www.stringcheeseincident.com

SARAH "HATER" HOYLES
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The true craft of music making is found amongst the mandolin, organ, accordion, guitar and drums on this, the fifth album released by the String

Cheese Incident. With the boundless musical experience and talent shared between the five bandmates, there are diverse sounds dripping from the eleven tracks.

Latin flare, bluegrass twang, rock echoes and folk harmonies intertwine. The beauty of the String Cheese Incident is that they're a "jam band," which manifests constant surprises when they play together. Their sound is forever morphing with improvisations. This makes the format of a recorded album confining; the constructs of an album suck out all the spontaneity of this live band.

This CD is but one of countless interpretations of their latest songs. Although it cannot capture the true concert sound of the String Cheese Incident, it is a slight sample of the capability and brilliance the band possesses.



Jackass

The Soundtrack
American Recordings
www.jackass.com

ALEX KONYE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

We could spend our time debating the glaring omissions on the Jackass soundtrack—so and so's song should be there because it captures the excruciating delight of having your nut-sack mashed and then spit on by immature morons—but let's not.

Rather, we should accept that Johnny Knoxville, and his band of rebels, consider their stunts for all of five seconds, and execute them with drunken grace.

The crack Jackass team has chosen songs that adequately represent their vices: the Ramones and Andrew WK are the ambassadors of fun (which is an umbrella term for drinking, boozing, hosing and revelry in general); Slayer and the Misfits "stand up" for violence; Sir Mix-A-Lot does his part to edify with his timeless think-piece on big butts.

I dare you to buy the album. I think it has the perfect mix of songs to inspire reckless behaviour, and utter stupidity (read, good times) in all us buttoned-down, highly paid, research assistants. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to light myself on fire, lace up my hockey skates, and erect a Monet at centre ice.



Old Reliable played the 'Plant in their eighth anniversary show last weekend.

ANGELA SCHENSTAD



Murderdolls

Beyond The Valley Of The Murderdolls
Road Runner Records
www.murderdolls.com

HEATHER ADLER
Features Editor

Featuring members of (n)ferous hardcore metalists, Slipknot and Static X, this ghoulish co-operative of terribly disturbed individuals pushes the bounds of depravity in industrial music.

The angst-ridden lyrics are barely audible over a wall of drop-tuned gui-

tars cranked to kill-your-mother distortion levels and the only quality of the album more appalling than the sound is the message being conveyed. The tired stream of songs about suicide, grave robbing, Dracula, and of course, Norman Bates, are as monotonous as they are incoherent. At best, this release is entertaining for a few chuckles at the novelty of the incessantly over-the-top screaming, and a couple giggles at the ridiculousness of these PVC poster boys.

Titles like "Slit My Wrist," "She Was A Teenage Zombie," and "Dressed to Depress," would only be good if they were meant as a joke, but sadly, this band takes themselves quite seriously.

Who are these songs speaking to? An angry teenager polishing a weapon in his parents' basement? Maybe. But maybe these stars just sing these songs because it seems to make them a great deal of money.

And that's the biggest, saddest joke of all.

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CULTURA OBSCURA



Happy Wash Cloth

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

Often, when I'm in the shower, I ponder the sort of object that would get me the most clean, and help me to start out my day right. Apparently, some folks

in Korea were thinking the same thing. That's why the Itaici Happy Bath Towel Company created the Happy Wash Cloth.

This cloth's washing power is so strong that using it will result in "take-off-dirt easy & thoroughly removal." The product further boasts that, when balled up, the user will get "the better off-effect on skin."

I'm not sure why marketers in Korea thought that translating their information into English using Babel Fish was a good idea. Obviously it makes for good laughs, but what kind of person would purchase such a thing? This "Happy" wash cloth is about as coarse as sandpaper and it's only about five inches by five inches. This might remove the dirt from a prematurely-born midgid, but not from a full-grown adult.

I think the most irritating thing about the Happy Wash Cloth, and other poorly-translated products, is that there's really no way to translate languages such as Korean or Japanese into English adequately. The syntax is all wrong and it's ridiculous.

But damned if it isn't hilarious. Besides, what else could we scrub ourselves with in the shower while giggling with mirth? Moss and Oil of Olay seems the only alternative. I'll take the Happy Wash Cloth.

So what if Dr Phil isn't on TV when you need some of his snappy wisdom? Just what are you supposed to do? Oprah "I don't have a PhD" Winfrey isn't going to be much help when you feel concerned about your commitment issues.

Hey, don't sweat it. The Dr Phil Random Quote Generator gives you around-the-clock access to one-liners that'll make you swear they've wired his brain directly into the Internet. Here are few samples:

"You don't need orange sherbet to throw a brick at a turtle."

"You don't need formaldehyde to fall in love with an asshole."

"You don't need me to tell you to poop on an ashole."

"You don't need a bad credit rating to join the circus."

While not officially associated with Dr Phil in any way, it sounds authentic. Direct, yet profound, I feel my life has changed already. Thank you, Dr Phil.

SITE UNSEEN



www.mangydog.com/games/drphil.html

TYSON DURST
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Our definitions of sex are way too narrow," says Judy Hancock, a sex therapist and the Health Education Coordinator for the U of A's Peer Health Educators.

"They're based on a puritanical anti-pleasure pro-procreation stance, and they're not working for us any more. We see high STD rates and high pregnancy rates and we see a lot of sexual dysfunction."

Hancock recently gave a talk entitled "Re-defining Sex for the 21st Century," in which she advocated exploring the whole galaxy of erotic possibilities, rather than focusing on intercourse, which is like one tiny planet in a huge galaxy. Her metaphor mirrors one often used by kinky people to describe what they do: they refer to so-called normal sex and sexuality as vanilla. Vanilla is a yummy flavour, but if you go to Baskin-Robbins, there's a reason there are 31 flavours to choose from.

Kink In Edmonton

Let's face it, Edmonton has a reputation for being conservative and dull. But we have not one but six organized groups dedicated to various aspects of BDSM and fetish active in our fair city.

The National Leather Association (NLA), which is actually an international organization of people involved in all aspects of BDSM and fetish, not just leather, has an active chapter in Edmonton. The Edmonton O Society (EOS), whose name comes from the French erotic novel *Histoire d'O*, also holds monthly meetings and workshops on topics like toy making, electrical play, and leather culture. Bottoms Up is a group specifically for bottoms and submissives, where they can learn and socialize without the sometimes intimidating presence of tops. A major focus of NLA, EOS, and Bottoms Up is educating people in safety and the prevention of abuse. For example, NLA hosts semi-regular S&M 101 classes, and a recent Bottoms Up meeting topic was "Warning Signs of a Bad Dom."

Northern Chaps and the Edmonton Community of Uniformed Men are groups of primarily gay men who have an interest in leather and fetish wear. Northern Chaps meets twice a month at Buddy's and ECUM meets monthly at Boots. Finally, the Simply a Spanking Society in Edmonton, or SASSIE, rounds out the scene as a group of Edmontonians whose particular interest is spanking.

WORDS TRICIA LOWREY
PHOTOS KATE ROSSITER



S&M

The different groups get along quite well together; often people will be members of several different groups, and the groups get together to put on bigger events than each could do separately. Edmonton's big BDSM and fetish event of the year is Lupercalia, held annually over the Valentine's Day weekend.

Gary, the president of the local NLA chapter and the chair of the Lupercalia MMLII (2003) organizing committee, just about sparkles with excitement when he describes the party for the event. The big draw this year, he says, is Guy Baldwin, a Los Angeles psychotherapist who specializes in counselling people from sexual minorities. There will be other presentations encompassing a broad range of topics from equine tack for human wear to bottoms changing into tops, vendors of all kinds of kink supplies, and a toga party.

Some people like to experiment with intense sensations. Depending on their attitude, they may or may not like to call it pain. People who are into intense sensation may enjoy things that vanilla people also do, like biting, scratching and tickling, or they might go further.

Some intense sensations that people have been known to play with include ice, melted candle wax, clamps or clothespins on sensitive body parts. They might enjoy being beaten or whipped or spanked, gently or not at all gently, with anything from hands to spatulas to cat o' nine tails; electric shocks; piercing (permanent or temporary); tattooing; cutting; branding; etc.

For many people, the mental and emotional aspect of BDSM is as important, or even more important than, the physical things they might do. Bondage and/or pain play, if they do them at

Why do they do it?

Bottoms seem to have an easier time explaining what they get out of BDSM than tops. "When the body is subjected to pain," explains Susan, Gary's submissive friend, "the brain releases endorphins. It's like being an adrenaline junkie." Bottoms who learn more towards submission than pain often say that trusting their partner enough to be vulnerable with them creates a stronger feeling of intimacy.

When I asked Gary what he gets out of being a top, he didn't have a ready answer like Susan did. He says he gets a power rush from being in charge, but has trouble explaining why he would like being in charge that much. Susan suggests that maybe he enjoys being trusted enough to be allowed to be in charge.

For some people, kink seems to be ingrained. Gary, for example, can't remember how he became interested in BDSM. He says he's just had an interest "since forever" and never felt there was anything wrong with it. Any number of kinky women report their Barbie dolls used to do the weirdest things together or with GI Joe.

Other people never really consider the possibility, but then they try it and like it. Susan says she knew about Gary's interests when she got involved with him, but wasn't really interested herself. Then she let him tie her up just once to see what it was like, and liked it a lot, and hasn't turned back.

BDSM Culture

There are as many BDSM related subcultures as there are ways of doing BDSM. A lot of people who are into BDSM don't act much different from anyone else, except, of course, sexually. For example, when I went to an NLA pub night, the only thing that stood out about the NLA people was that they were rather more ordinary looking than a lot of the other people at the Roost that evening—they weren't even dressed up in leather. They were friendly and approachable, and they didn't even ask me if I was into BDSM myself until well into the conversation, and my answer didn't seem to change the way they acted towards me or how they expected me to act.

Treating each other like equals until it's been negotiated who is in charge and how much power they have seems to be the norm among most of the kinky people I've met in real life, but it's certainly not universal. In some BDSM subcultures, there are a strict hierarchies and rigid rules governing how Doms and subs should behave: in many cultures, it's assumed that Doms are entitled to deference and respect just for being Doms, and novice Doms in turn should defer to the more experienced. Online, names and personal pronouns referring to submissives are often written in lower case, while Doms' names and pronouns always get capitalized. Making a mistake with capitalization or forgetting to call someone by their appropriate title can get you into hot water in a lot of online cultures.

As an extreme example, the Korean subculture centres their play on re-creating the world



of science-fiction/fantasy writer John Norman's *Chronicles of Geng*. In Gorean culture, men are dominant warrior types, and women are slaves. A well-behaved slave won't even assert her individuality by referring to herself in the first person; rather she might talk about herself as "a girl" or "this poor slavegirl." Slaves are expected to be subservient towards all men, not just their own masters.

Different BDSM cultures work for people depending on what they want to get out of the experience. It works pretty well for the most part, as long as everybody involved is working from the same assumptions. But things can get ugly when a sub who expects to be treated as an equal at first crosses the path of a Dom who expects instant unquestioning obedience.

Safety

BDSM comes with all the risks of vanilla sex, and then some. You can catch all the same gross diseases from kinky sex that you can from normal sex, but depending on the toys you use, there are a lot of unconventional routes of exposure.

Because it can be difficult to meet partners in real life—there is no secret handshake to identify fellow kinksters, and no easy way of asking—a lot of people who are into BDSM meet their partners over the Internet. Meeting people off the 'Net always has risks, but if you're telling yourself get tied up by someone you barely know, you're putting your torso at much higher risk of being found in a suitcase in Haverlock Park.

It's not necessarily safe for tops either, though. Just because you're supposed to be in charge doesn't mean there won't be five guys waiting for you when you get there," remarks one active Dom. The same common-sense rules for meeting people off the 'Net for vanilla reasons apply to meeting new potential play-partners: always meet in a public place, not at one of your homes; make sure someone knows where you're going and when to expect you to call. And remember that your mommy told you not to get into cars with strangers.

What do kinky people do?

Everyone who's into BDSM has a slightly different, personal way of doing it, and a different set of things they like to do. BDSM stands for Bondage & Discipline, Dominance & Submission, Sadism & Masochism. Some people do a bit of everything; others have just one particular specialty. The common threads that link the vast spectrum of BDSM activities are (1) that there is an exploration of the erotic possibilities of power and/or pain, and (2) that it's consensual—nobody is getting hurt any more than they like.

Some kinky people like to get tied up. Some like to be tied up and tormented; some like to be tied up for sex; some like to be tied up but not have anything done to them at all. They may enjoy trying to escape, or they may enjoy feeling totally helpless. And of course, there are people who like to tie people up. Bondage can be as simple as using a necktie to tie someone's hands behind their back, or it can get elaborate and involve all sorts of custom-made leather restraints or hundreds of feet of rope knotted until the bottom looks like kinky macramé.

all, are more a vehicle for expressing the power relation between partners than an end in themselves. A strictly masochistic bottom, for example, might enjoy being whipped just for the sensation. A submissive bottom, on the other hand, might enjoy the same activity, and get off on the sensation, but also derives enjoyment from the fact that he's doing something that pleases his master.

Often, Dominance and submission play is focused more on the submissive's mind than body—on making him or her conscious of the Dominant's power. Even very normal-looking, ordinary missionary position intercourse under the covers with the lights out can feel extremely kinky when it becomes an expression of one partner giving up control to another. Some people only take on their Dominant and submissive roles in the sexual part of their relationship; others, who refer to their relationships as 24/7, extend the exchange of power to every aspect of their relationship. Often, committed Dom and sub couples will say that the sub belongs to, or even is owned by, the Dom, and the sub may wear a collar as a sign of that commitment.



Like any group of people who engage in specialized activities from cyclists to astronauts, people who do BDSM have developed some specialized terms to discuss the things they do.

BDSM An acronym that stands for Bondage & Discipline, Dominance & Submission, Sadism & Masochism. It's used as an umbrella term to encompass a whole spectrum of activities that consensually explore the eroticism of power and/or pain.

Vanilla Often, people who do BDSM use flavours of ice cream as a metaphor for the myriad of possible forms of sexual expression. "Vanilla" refers to so-called normal sexual expression; it's a delicious flavour but about as bland as strawberry and rum raisin and chocolate chip mint!

Top/bottom Terms borrowed from gay male culture. A top is someone who does stuff to other people; a bottom is someone who gets stuff done to him or her. Often, but not always, being a top means being dominant,

and being a bottom means being submissive. Top and bottom are probably the most generic role designations.

Sadist/Masochist A sadist is someone who likes inflicting pain; a masochist is a person who likes (or loves to hate) receiving pain. Usually sadists are dominant and masochists are submissive, but masochists who order their partner to hurt them, and sadists who eagerly follow their orders, are not unheard of.

Dom(me)/sub/Dom (Domme is the female conjugate) is someone who takes the dominant role; a sub is a person who takes the submissive role.

Switch Someone who can be either a top or a bottom. Some people take one role all the time; with one partner, but the other with other partners; some people take turns with their partners; others might turn the tables on their partner in the middle of a scene.

Play to engage in BDSM activities. Sex is supposed to



And then there are risks specific to BDSM play. It's the top's responsibility to do everything as safely as possible, but bottoms are far from off the hook. If they feel something is unsafe, it's their responsibility to say no. Playing safely means thinking ahead. When it comes to bondage, for example, you don't want to cut off circulation for too long and do permanent damage. You also need to consider whether you've tied them to something stable (that plant hanger ripping out of the ceiling, raining plaster dust over everything, could really wreck the mood). And, most importantly, what will you do if you have to get them untied really fast in an emergency?

Because bottoms literally put their lives in their tops' hands, that leaves tops vulnerable as well, in a legal sense. If something goes seriously wrong during a scene, the top is going to be held responsible. Besides knowing what you're doing and not trying anything stupidly beyond your ability to do safely, the key to staying out of trouble is to negotiate clearly. If you've agreed "no sex," for example, make sure you know exactly what your partner thinks sex is and what you can put where, or you may find yourself charged with sexual assault.

There are emotional as well as physical risks involved in BDSM play. Bottoms can become very vulnerable and very raw emotionally during a session, and sometimes something that happens during play can bring back memories that might have been happier forgotten, or sometimes, just as physical play can go too far and people get hurt physically, mental and emotional play can go too far and people get hurt emotionally. As well, because of the risk that bottoms take by trusting their tops, even small breaches of trust can be traumatic. A bottom who is panicking and lashing out in self-defense is not an easy thing for a top to deal with emotionally either.

BDSM and abuse

"I think in any area of life, let alone sexuality, you have a continuum where there's healthy and there's unhealthy. And I think there probably is some healthiness in some forms of BDSM and I think there is probably some unhealthiness in some of them," says Hancock. "[But] there's a

tendency within the community to say it's all healthy and good, and I think that's... unrealistic. It's not all horrible, but it's not all healthy and consensual either."

While most people who are into BDSM, like everybody else, are good people, bottoms are definitely at risk of being abused. There are people out there who think they don't have to use condoms if you're tied up, and that safe-words are for posers. There are people who think submissives should get off on being used and thrown away. And there are people who use BDSM as a way of getting their partners to behave predictably, so that they can get whatever they want sexually without wasting time on all that relationship crap, and who will happily squelch a bottom's personality in the name of making them a good slave. Not to mention people who really have no concept of consent or healthy power exchange and do whatever they want, regardless of their partners' opinion. And bottoms, especially inexperienced ones, are not always quick to catch on that they are being mistreated. Often they think that the reason they are unhappy is that they are not submissive enough and just try harder to please their abuser.

But the line between BDSM and abuse is very clear: people who are being abused feel scared and worthless and helpless. People engaged in consensual, mutually fulfilling BDSM might find some of the things they do scary, but, in a twisted way they can't quite explain, it makes them feel whole and strong and right and good.

Hancock's favourite quotation about good sex, which can be applied to any flavour of sexual activity comes from researcher Bernie Zilbergeld: "You're having good sex if you feel good about yourself, good about your partner, and good about what you're doing. If later, after you've had time for reflection, you still feel good about yourself, your partner, and what you did, you know you've had good sex."



be fun, right?

Scene 1. As in general usage: "The Edmonton BDSM scene," just like the Edmonton punk scene, etc. 2. As a verb, a somewhat more serious-sounding synonym for "play." To scene with someone. 3. As a noun: one complete session of BDSM activity.

"Safe, Sane, Consensual" The motto of the vast majority of people who do BDSM. It's an acknowledgement that BDSM is a comparatively high-risk activity, but nobody should get hurt any more than be or she likes. Of course, one person's idea of safe, sane and consensual might be another person's "that's so risky you can't be sane if you want to do it, and there's no way I'm consenting to it."

Safe-word A way of making sure play stays consensual. Often in BDSM play, no doesn't mean no any more because the bottom enjoys putting up a fight or begging for mercy. A safe-word is something the bottom can say

that she or he would be unlikely to say by accident, to indicate they're not having fun any more and now no does mean no again. Tops can safe-word too if they're feeling overwhelmed by what's going on. When a top and bottom are communicating well, they rarely have to use their safe-words because the top can tell when to back off before the bottom starts to panic.

Fetish Something that some people find extraordinarily arousing. Some of the things people have fetishes for include shoes, lingerie, smoking, leather, diapers, power, pain, latex, nurses, teachers, spankings, enemas, stuffed animals... the list is nearly endless.

Toy Something used for BDSM play. It can be something specifically manufactured for the purpose, like a dildo or a pair of handcuffs, but if you can find an alternative application for something, it becomes a toy. For the creative, the Everything for a Dollar store is one of the best toy stores around.



Your elected executive for this year are:

President – Mike Hudema
 president@su.ualberta.ca
 VP Academic – Mat Brechtel
 vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca
 VP External – Anand Sharma
 vp.external@su.ualberta.ca
 VP Operations and Finance – Steve Smith
 vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca
 VP Student Life – Kail Ross
 vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca



www.su.ualberta.ca
 492.4236

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 27 – Tuition Town Hall Meeting: 12:00 noon, Council Chamber (2-1 University Hall)
Nov. 27 – MAC Meeting: Tuition & Volunteers; 4:00 pm, 6-06 SUB
Nov. 28 – Tuition Forum: Differential tuition: The creation of a two-tiered education?; 2:00 p.m. SUB Stage
Monday, December 2 – Quentin Tarantino Movie Night, w/ Pulp Fiction, and Romance; 8:00 pm, Dewey's Lounge
Dec. 4 – MAC Meeting: Tuition & Volunteers; 4:00 pm, 6-06 SUB
Dec. 5 – Revolutionary Speaker Series: Inga Muscio; 7:00 pm, Myer Horowitz Theatre; tickets \$10, available at SUB Info Desks

Freeze the Fees

In addition to the proposed 6.4% tuition increase the University of Alberta would like to introduce for next year, they are also hoping to deregulate fees in some faculties. Here is some information on deregulation and differential fees.

Differential Tuition

In 1998, the province of Ontario implemented a deregulated tuition scheme, in response to calls from university presidents, and recommendations contained in the 1996 Smith Report.

Since Ontario universities began significantly differentiating fees, Law school tuition has gone up 101% at Queen's University, 184% at the University of Toronto, and 115% at York University. These represent the highest increases in the country.¹

Medical schools in Ontario have not fared much better. The average tuition for students entering first year medical school in September 2001 is 158% higher than first year tuition in 1997.

Skyrocketing tuition in Ontario has not come without significant social costs. Consider the following:

- Recent surveys at the University of Western Ontario revealed that the average family income of incoming medical students jumped from approximately \$80,000 to \$140,000 since tuition was deregulated.²
- At Western, the percentage of students coming from families with an income less than \$60,000 has decreased from 35% to 15%
- The average expected debt is now over \$70,000
- Even banks are worried: The CIBC says that rising medical education costs have resulted in debt loads growing much faster than medical students' potential income. The CIBC sets limits on the amount of debt they feel students can repay in the years following their training. Unfortunately, medical students are now reaching these limits – between \$100,000 and \$130,000.³
- The University of Guelph found that 40% fewer low-income individuals were attending university as tuition rose between 1998 and 2000⁴
- In Ontario, the number of medical students with a family income of less than \$40,000 declined from 22.6% to 15%⁵

Impacts Upon the Law and Medical Professions

The Canadian Bar Association, along with the Canadian Medical Association and six other professional associations,⁶ have such grave concerns with the rising cost of tuition that, in September 2000, they formed the National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition (NPACT). NPACT has identified the serious impacts skyrocketing tuition and student debt will have on current and potential students, in addition to eventual impacts upon the professions and the services provided to the public. These impacts are:

- Education for the affluent and a less diverse workforce
- Exacerbating the "brain drain" to the United States
- Decreased access to professional services due to high debt loads. This includes doctors, who may be less willing to practice medicine in rural communities, or law graduates who are less likely to set up their own practices or take on public interest, environmental, labour, or poverty law.
- Effects on the health and well-being of students. With higher tuition fees, the stress of making ends meet increases. Many professional program applicants have spouses or dependents to support.
- Insufficient public funding and increasing dependence on bank loans.
- Previous education debt and accumulative debt.
- Decreased pay potential and limited ability to pay off debts quickly. A number of factors influence the net income of some professionals, and hinder their ability to pay off debts as quickly as the previous generation of professionals. These factors include billing caps, stagnant fees for services, and high practice insurance fees.
- Adverse effects on the Canadian economy. Income that newly graduate professionals would otherwise be spending on homes, cars and investments is now going to debt repayment.

The NPACT concludes their position paper by stating

"the Canadian government must graduate professionals with reasonable debt loads so that they have greater incentive to remain and practice in Canada to serve the needs of the Canadian public."⁷



The NPACT concludes their position paper by stating

"the Canadian government must graduate professionals with reasonable debt loads so that they have greater incentive to remain and practice in Canada to serve the needs of the Canadian public."

Footnotes

- Statistics Canada, as cited in Canadian Federation of Students Ontario, Tuition Fact Sheets, www.cfsontario.ca.
- Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario, Report of the 2001 Survey of Medical Students. Available at www.oma.org/student/ombshweb.htm
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- National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition, September 2000. Available on the Canadian Medical Association website, www.cma.ca

Join us daily at noon on the main floor of SUB as we reveal a new source of University misspending.

We Can Fight It

**Fight the Tuition Increases!****Volunteer Now!**

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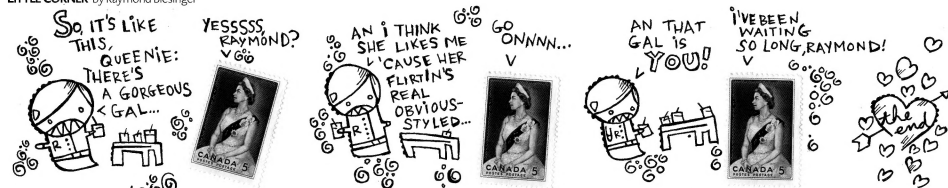
For more information, please contact:
 Mike Hudema, President, Students' Union
 492.4236
 president@su.ualberta.ca

www.freezethefees.ca

ROGUE REPORTER by Michelle Winters



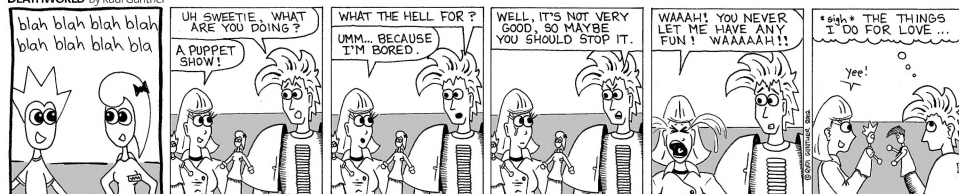
LITTLE CORNER by Raymond Biesinger



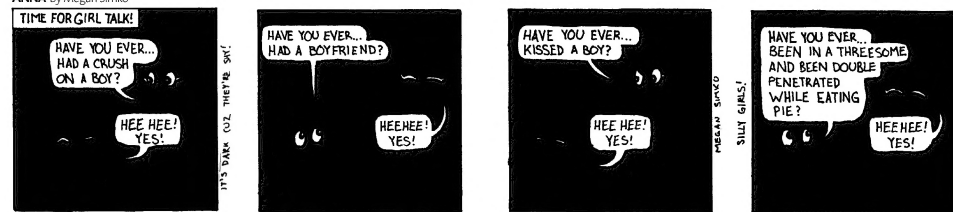
HAPPENINGS DE LA VARSITY by Bill Benson



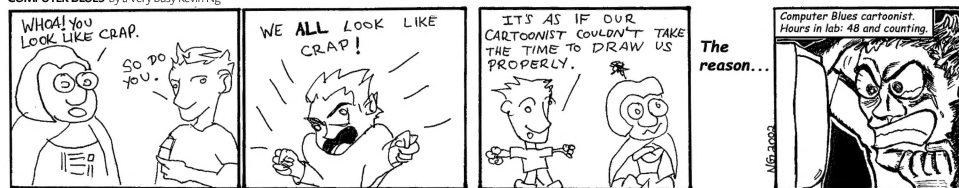
DEATHWORLD by Rudi Gunther



ANNA by Megan Simko



COMPUTER BLUES by a Very Busy Kevin Ng



Computer Blues cartoonist:
Hours in lab: 48 and counting.

ANG-2003

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Library Craft Sale: November 28 and 29, 9:30
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amiable, social chats and outings. Reply by
phone: 780-604-4184

Saw you Thursday, Nov 21, 5:00pm on Univ.
LET. You: Black thick-rimmed glasses, blond
hair, dark blue jeans, white shoes. Me:
Shaved head, black Chuck Taylors, reading See
Magazine. Please phone 474-0579.

ASTRONO
WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

So, I hope you all caught the dis-
appointing Leonid meteor shower last
week. I was on the roof of the Physics
building from 2 am 'til 4 am and I saw
three. THREE!!!!!!! Boo-urns. But
that was no one's fault but my own,
as I did not steal a car and drive to
Saskatoon where it was clear.
And I guess the three I saw were
pretty damn bright, and they did leave
smoke trails and all. But still, last meteor
shower for 98 years, and I got it were
boojums. Sigh.

Anyway, enough griping and groan-
ing. Time to get on to the astro events
of this week.

The Moon is up in the east by mid-
night tonight. Look far to its upper
right for the bright planet Jupiter. If
you have a good pair of binoculars,
or a telescope, look for Jupiter's larg-
est moon, Ganymede, casting its tiny
black shadow on Jupiter's face tonight
from 6:41 pm EST to 10:13 pm it'll be
pretty.

On a side note, I have finally found
out what is causing all the strife in
everyone's life: the planet Mercury. It is
solely responsible for all the breakups,
hospital visits, late assignments and
drunkin' which has been experienced as
of late (biscuit, don't worry, I love you).

And blah blah blah, come to the
observatory on Thursday night.

No, silly, it's not astrology, it's astronomy.
AstronoWatch is a weekly feature pub-
lished every Tuesday. Our resident astron-
omer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for
the cosmos, and invites you up to the
Campus Observatory every Thursday
evening at 8:00pm. Just take the eleva-
tor to the Physics Building up to the sixth
floor, and then the stairs up to the sev-
enth floor. Walk out onto the roof and
check out the view with the University's
telescopes.

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for knowledge, not food.

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or would like to donate or volunteer

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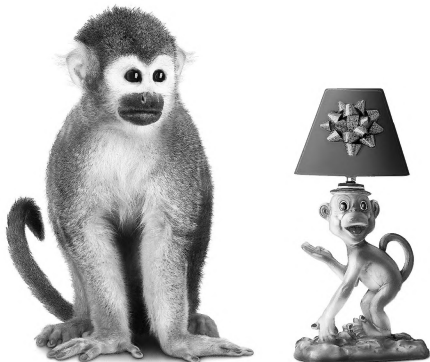


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